



Stateline

The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments

Volume 9, Number 7 • July 2000

Illinois legislative candidates are hoping that their campaign journeys ultimately send them to the state Capitol in Springfield.

Races in several Midwestern legislative chambers will be hotly contested this year.

(Photo: Office of Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White)



Capitol control

Stakes are high in races to seize Midwestern legislative chambers

by *Tim Anderson*

Campaign trails are fraught with unexpected turns and difficult obstacles, so it seems fitting that the most desired prize of this year's election season is control over a group of maps. While they won't help participants navigate this year's legislative races, the political maps that are drawn in 2001 have the potential to point candidates and political parties in the right direction for the next decade.

"Those are critical documents for every political party in every state," Indiana Rep. Win Moses, a Democrat from Fort Wayne, says. "They can offer a partisan advantage to one party over the other for the next 10 years. They also can and unquestionably will dictate the future of America. Congress is so closely divided right now, and the shifts in population over the last decade will immensely change congressional districts. Whoever wins control of these maps will control who is in charge of Congress."

With redistricting and reapportionment looming, the stakes are high in legislative races across the country. And in the Midwest, other factors will contribute to what promises to be an especially compelling election year. First, several "swing states" in the region have been targeted as keys to winning the 2000 presidential race. "A lot of the war will be fought in the states in the middle," says Wisconsin Sen. Carol Roessler, a Republican from Oshkosh.

Second, the balance of power in several Midwestern legislative chambers could be altered as a result of this year's elections. Michigan Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith certainly hopes that is the case in her state. With Republicans currently controlling the legislative, executive and judicial branches, Smith and other Democrats have their eyes on eliminating the GOP's six-seat majority in the Michigan House.

"It would be a nightmare for us if we don't control one of the two legislative chambers going into 2001 redistricting," says Smith, of Salem Township, noting that no Senate seats are up for election in 2000. "Although in a lot of ways redistricting is more of an insider issue, I do think we need to make the voters aware of the importance of this election. This next Legislature will shape Michigan for years to come."

Those words are being echoed throughout the region. In Illinois, Republicans and Democrats both have something to lose — close majorities in the Senate and House, respectively. Minnesota's tripartisan government could get even more interesting if Gov. Jesse Ventura's Independence Party gets its way. In June, the party announced Operation Swing Vote, a plan to run at least 25 candidates in the House and Senate that, if successful, could thwart the other two parties' ability to elect majorities.

The most closely divided legislative chamber in the Midwest is the Wisconsin Senate. During the 2000 session, Democrats had a scant one-seat edge over Republicans. (Republican Sen. Brian Rude has since retired, giving Democrats a 17-15 edge.)

"We've flip-flopped [between majority and minority party status] several times since I was elected in 1992," says Wisconsin Republican Sen. Gary Drzewiecki of Pulaski. "I certainly would like to see it happen again, and maybe this time with numbers that will make me more comfortable about us being able to keep the majority."

In Indiana and Iowa, Democratic governors will try to use their fund-raising abilities, popularity among voters and media coverage to carry their legislative partners to victories.

"There is a very strong feeling among the

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Stateline Midwest is published monthly by the Midwestern

Office of The Council of State Governments.

Annual subscription rate: \$60. To order, call 1-800-800-1910.

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Around the Region

The U.S. House and Senate passed bills earlier this year that lawmakers in states along the U.S.-Canada border hope will resolve concerns they had about a previously mandated exit-entry system that many said would disrupt trade and tourism.

In 1996, Congress approved a border control law aimed at stemming illegal entries and terrorist activities. The legislation eventually would have required Canadians to show additional proof of citizenship beyond a driver's license before entering this country, a move contrary to long-standing procedures at land borders between the United States and Canada.

Opponents of the 1996 bill said the new exit-entry system would have caused unmanageable traffic delays at the border. Through resolutions and work with Canadian officials, the Midwestern Governors Conference and the Midwestern Legislative Conference pushed for a delay in implementation of the 1996 federal immigration law until a different tracking system was created.

According to an article in *Congressional Quarterly Weekly*, the new bill requires the Immigration and Naturalization Service to create an automated exit-entry system by 2005. In the meantime, the traditional procedures at land borders will be followed.

Race disparities in drug arrests

Black Americans are incarcerated in state prisons for drug crimes at a much higher rate than white Americans, a study by the group Human Rights Watch found. The report analyzed the criminal justice system in 37 states, particularly the racial makeup of people sent to prison for drug crimes.

While the majority of drug offenders are white, Human Rights Watch says, 62 percent of drug offenders sent to prison are black. Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Ohio had some of the highest disparity rates in the nation. Drug law enforcement has been concentrated in low-income, metropolitan areas, where many minorities live, causing the race disparity, the group believes.

North Dakota starts new agency

The North Dakota Labor Department has combined its divisions of equal employment and fair housing in order to create a new unit that will serve as a clearinghouse for all discrimination complaints.

The department's recently formed Human Rights Division has been charged with responding to all discrimination charges and collecting data on the incidences. Legislative action was not needed to create the unit.

School modernization has high price tag

Calling its figures a "fiscally conservative estimate," the National Education Association released a report recently that put the cost of repairing and modernizing schools in the United States at \$322 billion.

The NEA study includes two components, infrastructure (repair and construction) and technology needs. Ohio, Illinois and Michigan were among the 10 states listed as needing the most costly improvements to school infrastructure and technology.

Ohio — which finished behind only New York and California — decided during its most recent legislative session to use \$10 billion from the settlement with tobacco companies to fund various school construction projects.

Overall, states have stepped up efforts to modernize their schools, but the \$322 billion total is 10 times what they spend every year, the study concluded.

In 1995, the U.S. General Accounting Office estimated that public schools needed a total of \$112 billion worth of repairs.

"Research shows that students learn best when they are in safe, modern schools with smaller classes and up-to-date technology," NEA President Bob Chase says.

The teachers union believes the federal government should provide additional funding to states so that they may better meet infrastructure and technology needs.

The NEA's \$268 billion infrastructure estimate was based on the plans of 24 states. The other 26 were then matched with comparable states.

The \$54 billion technology estimate was based on the analysis of three existing state assessments, which were then used as the basis for determining the needs of other states.

Costly repairs

This chart indicates what the National Education Association believes it would cost to fix and modernize schools in each Midwestern state. Dollar figures are in the billions.

State	Cost
Ohio	\$24.9
Illinois	\$11.3
Michigan	\$9.9
Wisconsin	\$5.7
Minnesota	\$5.4
Iowa	\$3.9
Indiana	\$3.5
Kansas	\$2.3
Nebraska	\$2.0
South Dakota	\$.650
North Dakota	\$.545

Smart-growth plan receives national recognition

Attempts by the state of Illinois to encourage balanced growth and smart planning decisions by local communities have been recognized as a "best practice" by the National Governors' Association.

The Illinois Tomorrow initiative was created in response to concerns that the state was losing open space and agricultural land while decay in certain urban areas and traffic congestion was worsening.

Through the use of state dollars and partnerships with local communities, Illinois Tomorrow provides incentives for the kind of growth

that preserves open space, redevelops urban infrastructures and improves job opportunities.

Gov. George Ryan also created the Balanced Growth Cabinet, a group made up of state leaders in transportation, the environment, agriculture, finance, housing and economic development. The cabinet coordinates decisions that impact growth and development in Illinois.

"Achieving balanced growth between oftentimes competing interests of economic development and environmental preservation requires careful planning, and a good deal of teamwork," Ryan says.

South Dakota lauds success of 'most wanted' list

South Dakota recently released a "most wanted" poster that pictures six noncustodial parents who have not been paying their child support bills.

This is the fifth year that the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has distributed the poster, which is displayed in post offices, police departments and government offices. Child support agencies in other states also are sent the poster.

Since 1995, \$155,183 has been collected from 30 of the 42 parents featured on the posters.

"When the OCSE has exhausted all other

location and enforcement methods, we turn to the public to help track down these offenders," says program manager Louween Schoenhard.

This year's poster features five men and one woman who owe more than \$120,000 in child support. While helping collect money from the offenders, state officials say, the poster also sends a strong message to parents about the importance of paying child support.

The poster is available on the state's child support enforcement Web site at: <http://www.state.sd.us/social/CSE/services.htm>.



Drought panels formed so areas won't be left high and dry

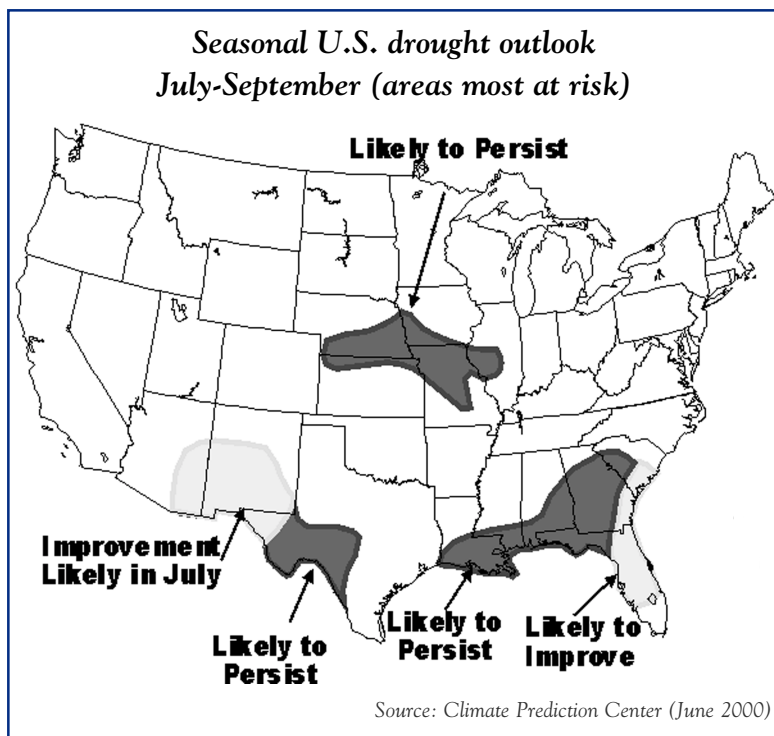
by Anne McCann

Farmers in Nebraska and the rest of the Corn Belt may have seen their crops reach “knee-high by the 4th of July,” but the remainder of the growing season has experts worried.

According to the latest three-month forecast by the Climate Prediction Center at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the combination of sparse rains and hot weather is expected to continue through the summer and fall, intensifying concerns about the already-parched ground of the nation’s midsection. In most places, soil moisture — especially that which is a foot or more below ground level — is already far below normal, and the situation is unlikely to change in the near future.

“We haven’t seen a drought like this across most of the Corn Belt, in particular in Nebraska, since the 1950s,” says Mark Svoboda, a climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This drought has hit the Corn Belt particularly hard, covering most of southeastern Nebraska, southwestern Iowa and western Illinois. Svoboda and other climatologists blame the La Nina



weather system — which pushed the jet stream north — for the hotter, drier weather in the Midwest over the past two years.

Many farmers in the state have seen their crop production reduced by 50 percent or more because of the dry weather. And livestock farmers have been forced to liquidate their herds due to a lack of food or water for the animals.

In response to the continuing dry weather, Nebraska Republican Gov. Mike Johanns

declared a drought emergency last month. The declaration will allow state officials to assist local governments more quickly in dealing with problems related to the drought. That includes the use of money from a state emergency fund.

Johanns also has formed a drought management team made up of representatives from various state departments and the governor’s office. The group will meet weekly to provide updates on drought conditions and to make recommendations to the governor on what actions should be pursued.

“An inventory is being taken of public and private resources available within Nebraska and regionally to address drought issues,”

Johanns says.

Across the border, Iowa Democratic Gov. Tom Vilsack announced the formation in May of a 13-member Drought Advisory Council, which has been charged with many of the same responsibilities as its Nebraska counterpart.

“Low levels of water in city private wells could present health risks, and livestock water shortages combined with inadequate subsoil moisture could jeopardize farmers’ crops,” Vilsack says. 🇺🇸

ANR Pipeline Ad



Despite obstacles, privacy legislation won't go away

by Laura Kliewer

Two Midwestern state legislatures that attempted to tackle consumer privacy issues during this year's sessions were blocked far short of their goals — by compact sessions, business concerns and political differences. However, legislative leaders in Kansas and Minnesota are promising to go on the offensive in 2001 with this multifaceted issue, which has become an increasing public concern in the digital age.

In Kansas, the House Select Committee on Information Management proposed the Internet Privacy Protection Act, a bill that would have prohibited online service providers within the state from disclosing personal identification information about subscribers to third parties. The measure stalled in committee, and no action was taken. "It was a really compressed session, and the bill was put on the back burner," says the committee's chair, Republican Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby.

But Morrison is quick to add that privacy legislation will be revisited — and with more fervor — next year. He already has received assurances from leadership that privacy issues will be a priority next year.

More than a dozen privacy initiatives were proposed by the four Minnesota legislative caucuses and Attorney General Mike Hatch for consideration during the 2000 session. Bills were proposed in the House and Senate that mirror a new federal law regarding restrictions on sharing information about banking customers. The House's legislation would have allowed information to be shared unless the customer made objections in writing. Under the Senate bill, the information could be marketed only if the customer agreed in advance.

Other measures would have created a "no call list" to keep telemarketers from making unwanted sales calls; prohibited either telephone companies, medical groups or Internet service providers from sharing personal information without consent; and prohibited individuals from sending false or misleading e-mail messages.

The proposed privacy bills became bogged down when legislators couldn't agree whether people's consent should be required before personal information is shared (known as opt-in) or whether consumers should have to ask specifically that their data be kept private (opt-out).

Then, hearings on the bills revealed concerns that the proposed regulations could hinder

everything from commerce to the tracking of diseases. For example, the Minnesota Health Department now collects patient information regarding diagnoses, medical procedures, drug prescriptions and health status reports. According to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, this information has been used in studies of diabetes, asbestos-related respiratory disease, prostate cancer screening, and the relationship between the health of newborns and their mothers.

Despite the lack of movement on the privacy legislation, Minnesota legislators believe the issue will be a top priority after the fall elections.

"If you asked people an open-ended question of what is one of the most important issues, privacy is not one of the most important," says Minnesota House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty, a Republican from Eagan. "But once people become aware, it becomes important. It's an emerging issue — one that is not going to go away."

Senate Democratic Majority Leader Roger Moe of Erskine agrees: "It's an emerging issue of this new century because of the change in federal laws in banking, insurance and investment firms and just the general sense from people that their privacy is being invaded. From what I can tell, it

goes from something as visceral as phone calls during dinner that drive you crazy to things that you don't even know about, but if you did, you'd be outraged — like companies marketing information

about you."

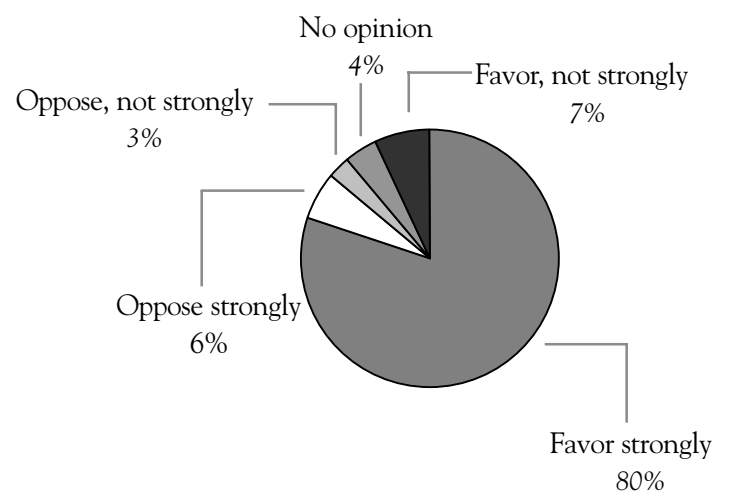
Consumer privacy legislation often faces an uphill battle in state legislative chambers, both because of the complexity of the issue and the view that such laws should only be made on the federal level.

Congressional measures

The issue is receiving increased attention by Congress. In February, two Republicans, U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton of Virginia, joined with two Democrats, U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan of Nevada and U.S. Rep. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, to form the first-ever Congressional Privacy Caucus. The caucus was formed in response to these congressional members' inability to add stronger privacy protections to

Privacy preferred by Minnesotans

The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* posed the following question to 1,021 residents of the state: As you may know, telephone companies can keep track of what phone numbers people call and Internet companies can keep track of which Web sites they visit. Would you favor or oppose a law that would require telephone and Internet companies to get permission from customers or users before providing those phone numbers or Web sites to others?



the Bank Modernization Bill, which was signed into law last November.

Shelby is sponsoring a bill against "behavioral profiling." The legislation would stop bankers and credit card issuers from disclosing transactions unless the consumer agrees to allow that information to be used. In April, President Bill Clinton unveiled a plan that would require companies to obtain consumer consent prior to sharing medical information or details about personal spending habits. In June, the head of the House Banking Committee, Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa, proposed consumer consent legislation similar to the medical data provision in the Clinton administration's proposal.

Experts say that Congress is unlikely to pass major privacy legislation this election year, and the Federal Trade Commission announced in May that it would scale back a proposal seeking new authority to regulate the privacy practices of Internet businesses.

Any state bill that attempts to protect consumer privacy may be challenged as a violation of the Commerce Clause in the U.S. Constitution. In March, a state judge declared that Washington's statute on junk e-mail — the first of its kind to take effect in the United States — violates the Constitution because it unduly interferes with the free flow of information in cyberspace.

But Moe predicts that there is going to be a significant amount of state legislation proposed, no matter what happens on the federal level. "That's what we heard: 'You can't do it because federal law prohibits it, or you can't make the state an island,'" he says. "But in about a three- or four-year time frame, you're going to see very, very severe restrictions. We need to do what we can to empower the consumer so that the consumer makes the decision to opt in or not." 🚩



Legislators seek school-funding solutions after court ruling

by *Tim Anderson*

Sixteen Ohio lawmakers have been given some schoolwork this summer, and the math problem they must solve is probably more daunting than any calculus or algebra question they experienced as students.

In May, for the second time in four years, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the state's method of funding schools is unconstitutional, largely because it depends too heavily on money generated from local property taxes. Soon after the decision, a joint, 16-member legislative committee was formed and charged with developing a school-funding plan in response to the justices' decision.

"The clearest message from the court is to reduce the over-reliance on property taxes," says Republican Sen. Bruce Johnson of Columbus, a member of the Joint Committee on Education Funding and Accountability. "Most people are pointing to some kind of substitution of state dollars for local property taxes, especially in low-wealth areas."

The committee, though, also received a message from leaders of the General Assembly. "The Senate president, speaker of the House and governor all agree that there shouldn't be a tax hike for the residents of the state of Ohio," Johnson adds.

And as if the numbers were not hard enough to crunch, politics also plays into the equation.

"Anything this committee does will be subject to review by the next General Assembly," Johnson says. "With term limits, we're going to have a huge number of new members in the House. I think we'll have close to half new members. Are they going to be obligated to implement whatever plan we develop? No, but the idea is to formulate a plan."

The committee faces a thorny task. But as they prepared in June for their first of seven planned meetings, members expressed hope that real progress could be made.

"This debate over school funding has been going on a long time. I know we will encounter some difficulties, but I also am hopeful and optimistic," says Ohio Rep. Jeanine Perry of Toledo, one of six Democrats serving on the committee. "My belief is that we will seek some improvements, we will have lengthy debates, and we will come to agreements on part of the resolution to this problem."

Possible solutions

The Supreme Court's decision is based on language in the Ohio Constitution that requires the state to provide "a thorough and efficient" public education system. Because some communities do not have the tax base to adequately support their schools, the court

ruled in its 4-3 decision, a funding formula that relies too heavily on local revenue streams is unconstitutional.

Currently, a little more than half of the money spent on elementary and secondary education comes from local property taxes.

The court's 2000 decision sustains a similar ruling it made in 1997 about the school-funding formula. While saying the state has made substantial progress in the last four years, a majority of justices agreed that more work needs to be done.

Legislators were not told exactly how much in additional state dollars would be needed to end Ohio's over-reliance on real estate taxes, but the figure is expected to be substantial.

Where will the extra money come from? One possible solution is to make cuts, or at least freeze growth, in other parts of the state budget. Over the last decade, Johnson says, the Ohio General Assembly has earmarked a larger and larger percentage of the state budget for education.

"The rate of growth in the state's education fund has far exceeded the rate of growth in other areas of the budget," he adds.

Another idea is to somehow combine money from local property taxes and place it in a statewide pool, allowing Ohio's poorer schools to receive some of the funds collected by wealthier districts.

Johnson questions the feasibility of such a plan if the pool includes residential property taxes. First, the idea would be a tough political sell, because many Ohioans want their taxes to stay in the local community. Second, school districts would have a tougher time getting tax increases approved by voters if some of the money went outside the district. Third, the large urban districts might forfeit some of their tax base, something they could not afford to lose.

Johnson does see some promise in a plan that would pool revenue generated from property taxes on commercial land.

"The idea would be that no matter where they [the businesses] locate, the money is allocated on a fair basis," he says. "You would take the new business and commercial taxes and put it in a state pool. No one has suggested yet how to reapportion that amount because no one would know how much it would be. You would just increase the state funding formula by x number of dollars."

The General Assembly also could agree to raise income and sales taxes for residents while slashing property taxes at an equal rate.

"Everything should be on the table at this point," says Ohio Republican Sen. Roy Ray of Akron, another member of the committee. "To raise the kind of revenue that we need to

reduce the reliance on property taxes, we'll need to find some kind of new revenue source. But nothing has been decided yet."

The committee won't be alone in developing solutions to the school-funding issue. This month, legislators plan to meet with members of the Ohio Coalition of Equity and Adequacy for School Funding — the group that brought the lawsuit against the state — for a roundtable discussion on various plans. Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Bob Taft will be traveling

the state to gather public input on the issue.

Earlier, there had even been talk about legislators meeting with Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick, who wrote the school-funding decision.

"The separation-of-powers issue would prevent that from ever happening," Ray believes.

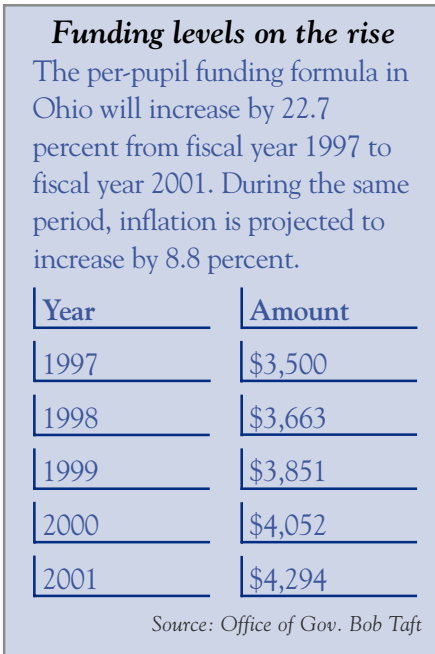
Looking ahead

Ray, Johnson and Perry agree that Ohio has improved the funding formula for education since the 1997 court decision. In recent years, state aid to school districts has increased significantly, a separate budget has been created for the education community, and the state has pumped billions of dollars into school construction projects.

Despite those strides, Perry believes the Supreme Court rightly ruled that the state must do more. Ray and Johnson argue that the decision is flawed and that the justices overstepped their bounds, but both say they are eager to find a solution that satisfies the court.

"The progress that we've made over the last few years has been substantial and I disagree with the opinion, but that's neither here nor there," Ray says. "What we want to do now is move ahead in a positive manner and find a way to resolve this."

Johnson adds: "This problem accumulated over 50 years of neglect. We've spent the last 10 years trying to solve it. It will probably take at least another decade to say we have an education system in the state that solves this problem." ✨





Internet expands community notification of sex offenders

by Elizabeth J. Armstrong

It is July 29, 1994, and 7-year-old Megan Kanka is walking home from a friend's house as the sun beats down over Hamilton Township, N.J. She almost makes it to her front door when 33-year-old Jesse Timmendequas invites her over to pet his new puppy. Upon entering his house, she is stepping out of the sun for the last time.

The case of Megan Kanka is like many others across the nation. A young child is persuaded by an older person into a home or a car or an alley and sexually abused, often to the point of death.

What put Megan's tragic death into the national spotlight was the history of the man who accosted her. Timmendequas was a convicted sex offender. Twice. And many believe he could have been stopped, had his prior convictions been known.

Since Megan's murder, numerous pieces of legislation have been passed at the state and federal levels in an attempt to make law enforcement agencies, communities and parents aware of the whereabouts of convicted sex offenders.

New Jersey Republican Gov. Christine Todd Whitman signed Megan's Law three months after the 7-year-old's death, and federal legislation signed by President Bill Clinton in 1996 requires states to notify communities about a nearby sex offender's whereabouts.

The 11 Midwestern states have adopted their own versions of Megan's Law, all of which require sex offenders to register their personal data. The information then follows sex offenders from neighborhood to neighborhood, warning residents that a potentially dangerous person is living nearby.



Rep. Scott Walker

The notification bills reflect concerns that sex offenders will strike again — and most likely near the places where they live. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, three in 10 sex offenders reported having assaulted multiple victims, and 75 percent of child abuse instances took place either in the victim's home or the offender's home.

"The primary role of incarceration is to protect the public," says Wisconsin Republican Rep. Scott Walker of Wauwatosa, who sponsored a bill authorizing the state to place sex offender registration and information on the Internet. "In many cases, it's a period of time where you can safely secure that they won't re-

offend. If you've got someone coming out of jail who is a risk to society, you can't allow him or her to be in contact with potential victims. That's where notification steps in."

Some have argued, though, that notification laws unfairly impose additional sentences on offenders who have served their time.

For example, a New Jersey federal judge in 1996 ruled that the original Megan's Law violated the privacy rights of sex offenders. That state has since rewritten its statute to comply with the court's findings.

Furthermore, do the notification laws isolate offenders from the community, lessening the chance of rehabilitation and increasing the likelihood of another sex offense?

This question is becoming more pertinent as states, concerned about the potential threat sex offenders pose, begin to post personal data online. On the Internet, neighbors are but a small percentage of the people who have access to names, photographs, addresses and even criminal histories.

Just a modem away

In the Midwest, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin currently provide Internet access regarding sex offender registration.

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill in April known as Katie's Law, named after a Moose Lake, Minn., convenience store clerk abducted in May 1999. Katie's Law further tightens registration requirements for sex offenders by increasing penalties for those who fail to register and creating a statewide computer network to track all criminals.

"A collaborative effort between law enforcement, corrections and community leaders has used community notification as an educational opportunity," says Minnesota Sen. Becky Lourey, a Democrat from Kerrick. "Communities informed in this manner become safer communities."

One worry about online notification is that it can lead to retributive actions against offenders. Reports have surfaced of convicted offenders being harassed by neighbors, evicted by landlords or fired from new jobs. For example, in September 1999, four men in Dallas severely beat a 27-year-old

retarded man whose address — a group home for the disabled — was erroneously listed as the location of a convicted sex offender.

More common, though, is the public outcry from community residents when they learn that a sex offender is moving into town. In April, the release of a sex offender into a Milwaukee neighborhood prompted a rally by local residents who objected to the move.

Authorities announced that the 26-year-old

convict, who is committed to treatment at the Wisconsin Resource Center in Winnebago, would be electronically monitored at all times.


Tough to treat

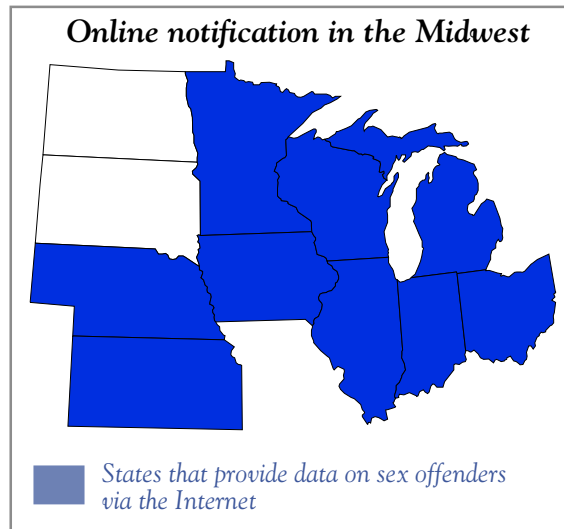
Successful treatment of sex offenders has proven to be elusive, even when the perpetrators admit that they have a problem. In Green Bay, Wis., a convicted sex offender awaiting trial in April told the court he was a danger to the public and should be committed for treatment. He defined himself as sexually violent and thinks he will offend again if not properly treated.

"It's almost a given that the vast majority [of sex offenders] will re-offend," Walker believes. "There may be cases where someone is treatable and doesn't have to remain forever, but, realistically, we understand that this is one of the few areas of crime where it's very difficult to involve people in a couple simple programs and have them not re-offend. These are expert manipulators."

As long as statistics show that sex offenders are prone to repeat their crimes and difficult to treat, lawmakers likely will search for other ways to keep communities safe when the perpetrators are released from prison.

"It's not so much that you're doing therapy to get rid of the problem as it is that you're providing treatment to put it on hold for as long as possible," Walker says.

"They're pushed into seclusion, but that may be the seclusion of their apartment because everyone in their neighborhood knows about them. It may not be the best thing for the sex offender, but it may encourage the community to keep track and not just rely on the police to look up these individuals." 





Parties target seats considered keys to legislative victories

(Continued from page 1)

Democrats that we could take the House and that we definitely could take some seats in the Senate," says Iowa Democratic Sen. Wally Horn of Cedar Rapids. "If the governor is able to go into districts and really help our candidates, the Senate's possible too."

Republican Rep. Chuck Larson of Cedar Rapids says that is wishful thinking. He expects the GOP to expand its double-digit majorities and believes Democratic Gov. Tom Vilsack's impact will be limited.

"Certainly the governor is able to strengthen their fund-raising efforts, and he also is effective with candidate recruitment," Larson concedes. "But we have worked doubly hard to recruit very, very strong candidates."

"A strong governor has not resulted in legislative seats or victories in the past," he adds. "[Republican] Gov. [Terry] Branstad was first elected in 1980, and the Democrats took control in '82 and held on until '92, even though there was a Republican governor able to raise money and recruit candidates."

Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon will have to do more than just help fellow Democrats in his state retain their six-seat majority in the House; his main focus will be on retaining the gubernatorial seat, which is being challenged by Republican U.S. Rep. David McIntosh.

The only other governor's race in the region this year is in North Dakota, where Republican John Hoeven and Democrat Heidi Heitkamp are seeking to succeed Republican Gov. Ed Schafer.

Handful of seats

Hundreds of legislative seats in the region are up for election this year, but the two main political parties will focus on a select few that they believe will make the difference between winning and losing a state. For example, while 17 Senate seats are up in Wisconsin this year, both parties are expected to concentrate on a handful of races.

"I would say there are two that could go either way," Roessler says. "So those will be very, very hotly contested. The candidates will have to have high energy and resolve. We know the national folks will participate with us, and I'm sure on the other side they will as well."

Moses, Smith and Horn are active in the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, a group that targets particular states and

state races and then provides strategic services and financial assistance to candidates.

"The numbers are usually pretty telling," says Smith, vice chair of the DLCC. "In our state, I would say that 80 percent of the districts are solidly one party or the other. Consequently, both parties begin concentrating on the other 20 percent."

Targeting select seats can be risky, Moses says, but "that's the way it is and always has been."

"It's a giant chess game," he adds. "When one side isn't looking, the other tries to gain an advantage. Sometimes you just have to put so much firepower into it that you overwhelm them."

A few years ago, Iowa Democrats decided to pump a lot of money and resources into the state senatorial campaign of Pat Deluhery, who narrowly defeated his Republican rival in Davenport.

"Pat won by a hundred and some votes, and he never would have made it if we hadn't put all kinds of resources in there," Horn believes. "That was a key seat."

But while strategic and financial help from the outside can provide a substantial boost to a candidate, neither can guarantee success. "Local candidates will win or lose their own races based on their efforts," Larson adds. In 1996, Drzewiecki says, his Wisconsin seat was unsuccessfully targeted, and he expects similar efforts — and results — this year. "In a way, you can look at it as an honor and also as a challenge," he adds. "If they are going to waste their money trying to beat me, go ahead and do it."

Presidential impact

Caught in the middle between the media attention paid to presidential and gubernatorial candidates and the emotions of a hot local issue, races for state senator and representative are sometimes the overlooked campaigns in an election season. National and community issues can affect voter turnout and opinions on state legislative races, but candidates still ultimately

Breaking down the legislatures

The following chart shows the makeup, by party, of the various Midwestern legislative bodies entering the 2000 sessions. It also indicates the political parties of each of the region's 11 governors.

State	House	Senate	Governor
Illinois	D (62-56)	R (32-27)	R (Ryan)
Indiana	D (53-47)	R (31-19)	D (O'Bannon)
Iowa	R (56-44)	R (30-20)	D (Vilsack)
Kansas	R (77-48)	R (27-13)	R (Graves)
Michigan	R (58-52)	R (23-15)	R (Engler)
Minnesota	R (70-63-1)	D (40-26-1)	I (Ventura)
Nebraska	Not applicable	Nonpartisan	R (Johanns)
North Dakota	R (63-34)	R (31-18)	R (Schafer)
Ohio	R (59-40)	R (21-12)	R (Taft)
South Dakota	R (51-19)	R (22-13)	R (Janklow)
Wisconsin	R (55-44)	D (17-16)	R (Thompson)


control their own destiny, veteran campaigners say.



"I'm not a strong believer in coattails, because Republicans took control of the Iowa House from Democrats in 1992, the same year Bill Clinton defeated George Bush," Larson says. "But I do think it is important to have a strong candidate for president. It helps with the overall GOP message and creates momentum for the state legislative races."

Another key, of course, will be legislators' stands on various policies and programs in their respective states. The two big issues expected to dominate debate in many of the Midwestern states should come as no surprise: education and taxes. In Michigan, vouchers for private schools and increasing the state's number of charter schools will receive considerable attention, while in Iowa, improving teacher salaries and education standards are expected to be hot-button subjects.

McIntosh has proposed cutting Indiana's property taxes by 25 percent, and Democrats will counter by stating that O'Bannon's economic policies have contributed to "the best economy in the history of Indiana," Moses says. Tax cuts were a dominant issue in Minnesota during the 2000 session, and discussion will continue through the campaign. Roessler believes lowering the income tax in Wisconsin will be a major campaign topic in her state.

Those issues, along with redistricting, underscore the significance of the upcoming 2000 elections.

"I've always thought the state legislative races were important, but the races have become even more so with the devolution of power that we have seen in recent years — whether it's being given more responsibility for welfare spending and programs or all the recent Supreme Court decisions that are putting more responsibility with the states," Smith says. "They are absolutely critical." 

 Election 2000 

This is the first in a five-part series examining this year's election season. The first installment examines the Midwest's closely divided chambers and the importance that both parties are placing on winning them. Here is a look at the topics for the series.

- 1) Closely divided legislative chambers
- 2) States with large majorities
- 3) Ballot initiatives in the Midwest
- 4) The effect of term limits on campaigning
- 5) Orienting new members



Governors travel the world looking for trade opportunities

by Chester Hicks

Governors have an enormous stake in sustaining the United States' position as a powerhouse in international trade. Trade in goods and services worldwide now stands at more than \$6 trillion per year. The volume of financial transactions in New York, Tokyo, and London alone is \$1 trillion every day — about twice the amount as recently as five years ago.

Within the last two years, governors in the Midwest have engaged in numerous trade missions in an effort to take advantage of emerging markets and to maintain and expand their states' respective economies.

Recently, Illinois Republican Gov. George Ryan led an eight-day trade mission to South Africa to help his state's businesses forge new trading relationships and business agreements in the country, as well as elsewhere in the continent.

"Africa is one of the fastest-growing markets in the world economy, and the key to that market is South Africa," Ryan says. "In the last three years, South Africa's progressive government has expanded economic growth from less than 1 percent in 1998 to almost 4 percent this year. South Africa generates more than 45 percent of the entire continent's gross domestic product."

The governor adds that Congress' recent passage of The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act will help American companies in the near future by solidifying and easing trade and investment policies between the United States and African nations.

A new Illinois trade office was officially opened in Johannesburg during Ryan's visit. It will be administered by former state Rep. Monica Faith Stewart. Illinois' goal for the trade office will be to help state businesses gain a solid foothold in South Africa and to establish ties in other sub-Saharan nations on the continent.

Illinois now has eight trade offices in countries around the world. Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson, whom Ryan served under as lieutenant governor, had pushed the number of trade offices to 12. However, Thompson's successor, Gov. Jim Edgar — in an effort to be fiscally responsible during tougher economic times — cut the number of international trade offices to six.

During the trade mission, Ryan commended two Illinois-based companies, Solo Cup and ServiceMaster, for reaching business agreements with South African companies.

Solo Cup will provide South African Breweries with plastic cups carrying the logo of Castle Beer. South African Breweries is the world's fourth largest brewer.

Under the ServiceMaster agreement, the company will train officials from Sirius Development and help develop strategies to manage nonmedical services in South African hospitals more efficiently.

Flurry of activity

Elsewhere in the Midwest, agreements have been reached with other foreign countries. Nebraska Republican Gov. Mike Johanns and officials representing Taiwan recently signed a trade agreement in the state Capitol's Warner Memorial Legislative Chamber.

The agreement expresses Taiwan's willingness to purchase about 275 million bushels of corn, barley or sorghum and to purchase between 125 and 141 million bushels of soybeans in 2001 from the United States.

Johanns visited Taiwan last year during his first trade mission, and his most recent agreement comes on the heels of a ten-day trade mission to Australia. While in Australia, Johanns and two state agency directors explored potential markets for agriculture and manufacturing products and discussed lowering trade barriers with Australian officials.

In November of last year, the governor and state Agriculture Director

Merlyn Carlson led a delegation to Hong Kong and China as part of an ongoing effort to boost trade with Asian nations.

Johanns described his visit as "a terrific opportunity to reach out to a fast-growing market with great potential for Nebraska products."

In 1998, total exports of Nebraska products to China rose 19 percent from the year before to more than \$23 million. Nebraska's agricultural exports to China totaled more than \$11 million, up 7 percent from 1997.

Last year, as China celebrated its 50th anniversary, a group of state leaders and corporate partners representing The Council of State Governments were present to witness the event.

Led by Wisconsin Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson, the delegation explored official and commercial ties in meetings with Chinese governmental and business counterparts. In Beijing, the group had a lengthy meeting with Premier Zhu Rongji. As part of the discussion, both sides discussed the importance that state-province relations have on building closer trade

relationships between the United States and China.

Through U.S. Embassy and Consulate briefings, meetings with provincial trade representatives and visits to view joint ventures in operation, the eight-day trip also allowed the American delegation to gain firsthand knowledge on how to conduct business in China.

Elsewhere in Asia, Ohio Republican Gov. Bob Taft led a 10-day trade mission to Japan earlier this year. The state-financed, \$100,000 mission was the first full-scale trade trip by an Ohio governor in a decade.

"We want to secure and expand over the long run the good, high-paying manufacturing jobs in the state," Taft says.

Japan means big business to Ohio. Two hundred fifty-five Japanese companies employ 67,379 Ohioans, ranking the state second in the nation. Japan is also among the state's top customers for soybeans, corn and other agricultural products. U.S. government figures place Japanese investment in the state at \$11.3 billion.

While in Japan, Taft met with top officials from Keidanren, in many ways a national chamber of commerce for Japan's most powerful companies. The influential, 1,000-member group helps direct Japanese government trade policies. During the meeting, the governor told officials about Ohio's tax incentives, foreign trade zones, job-training programs and workers' compensation system.

The trade mission focused on Japanese auto companies and auto-parts suppliers. Honda already employs 13,000 people in the state; Toyota Motor Corp. has dozens of suppliers in Ohio; Daimler-Chrysler exports Jeeps from Toledo, Ohio, to Japan; and Isuzu, along with General Motors, is set to open a diesel-engine joint venture this summer in Dayton, Ohio.

State and congressional attempts to encourage increased trade with Asian countries have, in many ways, coincided. At this article's writing, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to grant China permanent normal trading relations as part of that country's entry into the World Trade Organization. The decision by the U.S. House dictates the terms under which the \$100 billion in trade between America and China is conducted.

As states continue to go global, one should expect more trade missions by various governors, state officials and business leaders in the coming months. The Midwest is positioning itself to take advantage of increased trade with various foreign nations. 

"We want to secure and expand over the long run the good, high-paying manufacturing jobs in the state."

Gov. Bob Taft
Ohio

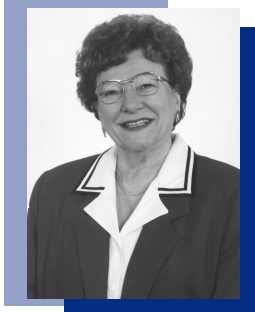


To rehabilitate juveniles, South Dakota must reform system

by South Dakota Rep. Mary Patterson

Just one year ago, on July 21, 1999, 14-year-old Gina Score forced South Dakota to completely re-evaluate our system of juvenile justice.

Gina died from heat exhaustion after she collapsed during a 2.7-mile forced run at a boot camp at the State Training School in Plankinton, S.D. Gina was 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed 224 pounds. Following her death, a lawsuit was filed by her parents.



Rep. Mary Patterson

Many other charges have been leveled against the South Dakota Department of Corrections as well — specifically the Plankinton facility. (For details, see the entire lawsuit by the Youth Law Center at <http://www.argusleader.com/complaint.shtml>.)

London-based Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch's children's rights division have contacted our governor asking for changes in the policies and procedures at Plankinton and Custer, another of our juvenile detention facilities.

An investigation was launched by the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice, which has the power to bring actions against state or local governments for violating the civil rights of people institutionalized in publicly operated facilities. Another group paying close attention to the situation is the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C.

While many crime numbers in our state were dropping, the percentage of adjudicated youths being committed to the South Dakota DOC increased from 9 percent in 1996 to 13 percent in 1999. This rise might be the result of 1996 laws that shifted the decision on where to place juveniles from the dispositional judge to the DOC.

Our state currently houses "children in need of supervision"— known as CHINS — in secure facilities. CHINS are status offenders, meaning their offense was criminal only because of their age. In 1999 there were 176 CHINS committed to the DOC. Only three other states incarcerate CHINS — and even then not at such a high level of security.

When all the investigations and lawsuits are finished, the South Dakota Legislature will have to decide who should determine where juveniles are placed: judges or the DOC. The

FirstPerson A forum for legislators and constitutional officers

judges would know that the rehabilitation of CHINS should not be the responsibility of the DOC.

Changes to the system

Since Gina died while under the supervision of our DOC, many changes have been made at the state level. They include the following:

- Chief administrators and several staff have left.
- The girls boot camp has been moved to Custer.
- Emotionally disturbed children have been admitted to the Human Services Center at Yankton.
- Communication between the DOC and parents occurs on a monthly basis, and greater communication between parents and their children has been allowed.
- As of this writing, the governor is releasing on the Internet the daily duty officer reports (names deleted) from Plankinton to raise awareness about troublesome juvenile inmates.

Some legislators say these changes have taken care of the problems in the juvenile justice system and that no further changes need to be made. Others of us disagree.

First, I would like the state to create the position of independent ombudsman, a move that several of us in the Legislature supported this past session.

The ombudsman would be appointed by the executive board of the Legislative Research Council. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "The effectiveness of ombudsman programs depends on their method of enactment, degree of autonomy, staffing, funding, statutory authority and functions." The South Dakota bill to create an ombudsman position did not pass.

Instead, the Legislature approved a bill that creates the position of a monitor who will answer to the governor. Whether or not the position of monitor will merit recognition and financial support from the OJJDP remains to be seen.

We also supported bills that would have prohibited the maintenance and operation of certain boot camp programs, provided a bill of rights for the parents of children in the care of the state, and required the DOC's penal institutions to be accredited by the American

Correctional Association. None of these legislative measures passed.

Correctional Association. None of these legislative measures passed.

Rehabilitating youths

My long-term goal for improving juvenile justice in South Dakota is to create a significantly different and vastly more humane system. I believe the program should focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment.

Article 28 of the United Nations' Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty (1990) states: "The detention of juveniles should only take place under conditions that take full account of their particular needs, status and special requirements according to their age, personality, sex and type of offense, as well as mental and physical health, and which ensure their protection from harmful influences and risk situations."

The needs of the girls in our state who are housed in juvenile detention facilities are only beginning to be acknowledged. According to a report from the National GAINS Center for People with Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System: "[Girls'] experiences of traumatization can only be inferred from the growing literature outlining the deleterious effects of intrusive institutional practices such as seclusion and restraint ... in those settings."

Our juvenile justice programs for girls must become more gender specific. For example, a report on the boys facility at Custer, requested by the DOC, recommended that physical exercise programs for girls be modeled after the plan for boys. In addition, strip searches of teenage girls are conducted by adult male guards.

Because South Dakota has term limits, between now and 2005 we will have elected a different governor and an almost entirely different Legislature. That will make it very difficult to develop and sustain a five-year plan for improving our program of juvenile justice. However, state leaders can make positive, substantive changes.

Everyone's goal is to create an environment in our juvenile justice system that is safe for both the children and the staff and to develop strategies that are therapeutic and humane. The goal of our South Dakota juvenile facilities should be to equip the offenders with better competency skills. We need to focus on rehabilitating rather than punishing the children so that they can leave the facilities as ethical, independent problem-solvers who can survive in today's world. The program of juvenile justice in South Dakota is truly in a long period of transition. ✨

Mary Patterson, a Democrat, represents the 13th District in the South Dakota House of Representatives.



CSG MIDWEST NEWS

MLC delegation visits with Ontario legislative leaders

Four Midwestern senators traveled to Toronto last month for a three-day legislative exchange designed to foster partnerships and an exchange of ideas between state and provincial leaders.

The Midwestern Legislative Conference's delegation also made the trip as part of continuing efforts to formalize the relationship between the MLC and its three provincial neighbors to the north. Ontario leaders and the MLC have discussed the possibility of the province becoming an affiliate of the conference, much like Saskatchewan did earlier this year. Members of the MLC also have met with leaders from the province of Manitoba.

Affiliate members serve on MLC policy committees and are able to participate in the Annual Meeting and various professional development programs.

Ontario Legislative Assembly Speaker Gary Carr served as the host June 5-7 for the four Midwestern lawmakers: Minnesota Sen. John Hottinger, chair of the MLC; Ohio Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Cupp, co-chair of

the MLC's Midwest-Canada Relations Committee; Iowa Sen. JoAnn Johnson; and Ohio Senate Assistant Minority Leader Leigh Herington.



Ontario Legislative Assembly Speaker Gary Carr (left) meets with MLC Chair Minnesota Sen. John Hottinger and Ohio Senate Assistant Minority Leader Leigh Herington during a recent meeting in Toronto.

The four visitors were able to take part in numerous activities, including the chance to job-shadow a member of the Legislative Assembly for a day, sit in on a caucus or committee meeting, and observe Ontario's question period for cabinet ministers

and the premier.

Members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly previously traveled to Ohio to view that state's Legislature in action.



Sen. Dianna Schimek, vice chair of the MLC, and Ron Osika, speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, sign the document officially recognizing the province as an affiliate of the MLC. Efforts to bring Ontario and Manitoba into the conference are ongoing.

Toll takes 10 Midwesterners

Ten Midwestern legislators and state officials will participate Sept. 25-30 in The Council of State Governments' Henry Toll Fellowship Program.

Each year, emerging leaders from around the country are selected to participate in the intensive education and training program.

The 2000 class includes the following Midwestern legislators: Indiana Sen. Susan Crosby, Wisconsin Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz, North Dakota Rep. Kim Koppleman, Illinois Sen. Lisa Madigan, Nebraska Sen. Nancy Thompson and Kansas Rep. Shari Weber.

Also selected were Linda Renee Baker, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services; Gregory Gardner, Kansas adjutant general; Christopher Lobb, Ohio assistant secretary of state; and Minnesota Judge Thomas McCarthy.

BILLD gets new co-chair

Ohio Rep. Kevin Coughlin, a member of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development class of 1998, has been named co-chair of the program's Steering Committee.

He replaces Wisconsin Sen. Brian Rude, who had served as co-chair of the BILLD Steering Committee since its inception seven years ago. Rude recently announced he was leaving his seat in the Senate, which he has held for 16 years, in order to pursue opportunities in the private sector.

Coughlin will serve as co-chair with Minnesota Sen. Mark Ourada. Earlier this month, 35 legislators from the Midwest and Saskatchewan completed the sixth annual BILLD program, which offers seminars on professional development, leadership training and policy analysis.

For more information, call Laura Tomaka in The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office at 630/810-0210.

A meeting reminder

Final plans are being made for the 55th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, which will be held Aug. 6-9 in Minneapolis.

The event will feature renowned speakers, sessions on issues of vital importance to the region, policy committee meetings and social activities. Anyone who has registered for the meeting and has any questions should call The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office at 630/810-0210.

— Page compiled by Tim Anderson

Calendar

Upcoming Midwestern Legislative Conference and Council of State Governments events

- 55th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
August 6-9, 2000 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Midwestern Legislative Service Agency Directors and Staff Annual Meeting
September 8-9, 2000 (Springfield, Illinois)
- CSG Henry Toll Fellowship Program
September 30-October 5, 2000 (Lexington, Kentucky)
- MLC Midwestern Workforce Development Conference
November 10-12, 2000 (Chicago, Illinois)
- CSG Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum
December 6-10, 2000 (Dearborn, Michigan)

The Council of State Governments was founded in 1933 as a national, nonpartisan organization to assist and advance state government. The headquarters office, in Lexington, Kentucky, is responsible for a variety of national programs and services, including research, reference publications, innovations transfer, suggested state legislation and interstate consulting services. The Midwestern Office supports several groups of state officials, including the Midwestern Governors' Conference and the Midwestern Legislative Conference, an association of all legislators in the region's 11 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The province of Saskatchewan is an affiliate member of the Midwestern Legislative Conference.



Rep. Brian Bosma of Indiana: Legislator continues family tradition devoted to community service

by Tim Anderson

Rep. Brian Bosma's busy mornings often begin in a quintessential Hoosier way. In the suit and tie he will wear to his law office, Bosma challenges his two children to a basketball shooting match outside their home — usually a game of horse or Mississippi.

During the legislative session, the lawmaker's long Thursday nights end at a gym where he coaches his children's respective basketball teams.

"I'm able to get out some of my pent-up basketball frustration," jokes Bosma, who played competitively at the high school level but has since been slowed by problems with his knees. "My wife says I'm happiest when I'm coaching. My style definitely wouldn't be described as 'Bobby Knight-ish.' I yell a lot, but always words of encouragement telling the players where to go. And believe it or not, they actually listen."

Whether it's playing basketball or attending Bible study classes with 8-year-old Christopher and 11-year-old Allison, Bosma is trying to leave a legacy — much like what his father did for him.

Charles Bosma was a longtime legislator in the Indiana General Assembly, serving in both the House and the Senate. In 1986, a few years after his father's death, Brian Bosma was appointed to — and then a few months later elected to — the Indiana House, officially joining a Legislature he had heard about nearly all his life.

"From the time I was 5 years old until my father passed away, the legislative process and state government was a dinner-table discussion," Bosma recalls. "So I was prepared for some of the challenges. But I still struggled, like all legislators do, to find a balance between my outside commitments and my responsibilities to the state, my constituents and my caucus."

He apparently has found it. An attorney, Bosma and his wife, Cheryl, are raising their two children in Indianapolis. Meanwhile, he has served as Republican floor leader since 1994 and is helping strategize his party's attempts this fall to regain a majority in the House and win the governor's seat.

From the beginning

It didn't take long for Bosma to be faced with a difficult challenge as a legislator. His father had long been an active supporter of a state-

funded program and facility dedicated to providing employment opportunities to visually impaired Indiana residents. In 1984, the agency was renamed Bosma Industries for the Blind in honor of Charles' dedication to it.

A few years later, though, Bosma Industries faced an uncertain fate. "Legislators decided that it had become too expensive, the facility had become outdated and adequate services were no longer being provided," Bosma says. "The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee had to break it to the new guy that the facility named after his father was being cut out of the state budget."

Bosma looked beyond the Capitol walls for a solution. He and others decided to privatize Bosma Industries, transforming the agency into a nonprofit organization whose facilities have since been updated and programs for the visually impaired have been improved.

It is now a United Way of Central Indiana affiliate that employs 22 legally blind production employees and specializes in dry-food packaging, the production of textiles, packing and the distribution of latex gloves.

"It changed from an outdated facility that the state believed had become a dead-end warehouse into a modern manufacturing operation that is now able to employ and train more visually impaired and blind individuals in a few years than the state was able to do in a long period of time," says Bosma, whose own son was born with a visual impairment. "It's a real success story and has really changed people's lives for the better."

Ensuring quality care for the disabled also has been a legislative focus of Bosma's, as have issues related to the environment and education. A large portion of the legislator's work as a private attorney involves environmental law. As a result,

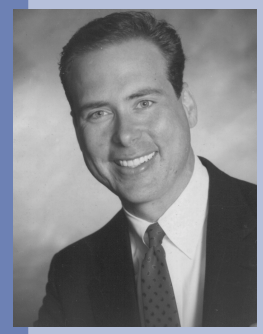
he has written or sponsored numerous bills on the subject, including legislation that provides incentives for private businesses to clean up contaminated sites in the state.

Education reform

Along with serving on the House Environmental Affairs Committee, Bosma is a member of the Education Committee. His concern for education issues, like his interest in state politics, is rooted in his family's history.

Bosma's grandfather came to this country from the Netherlands with his mother, father, brother and 10 sisters. While his grandfather chose to

Profile



Rep. Brian Bosma

"I grew up in a family where public service was emphasized. Giving back in some capacity was an expectation."

run a dairy operation — which Bosma worked for as a child — some of the other siblings became educators. In addition, Bosma's mother and mother-in-law worked as teachers. A year before joining the House, Bosma served as the superintendent of public instruction's legislative liaison, a position that allowed him to work on a series of education reform measures that he eventually was able to push and vote for as a young lawmaker.

In recent years, he has been a leading advocate of charter school legislation, which has not yet been approved in Indiana. "It will continue to be a key issue, and it literally will be decided in the November elections," Bosma believes. "Everybody is in favor of charters, but do they truly have independent school- and site-based control? That's been our position. They need to have that independence.

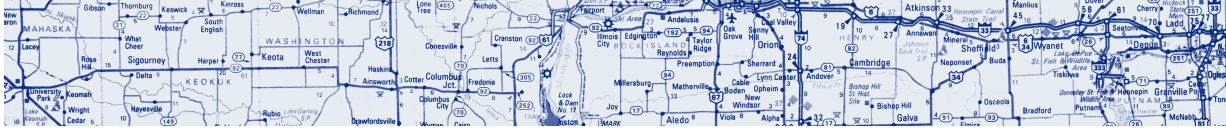
"True charter legislation would give public schools an opportunity to have vehicles for excellence and competition, which can only improve our public school system. The opportunity for creative applications of learning by teachers, parents and school board members is the key to innovative changes."

Bosma also would like the state to provide families with education tax breaks, which could be used for everything from textbooks to private school tuition. Other education issues in Indiana include alternative teacher certification and what many view as an inadequate state testing system.

"We still have a double-figure number of students who fail to pass it [the state's graduation exam] on the last try," Bosma says. "We either need to revamp our current tests or examine other methods. Results of the tests need to be returned to teachers, students and parents in time for more remediation and improvement."

Bosma has a bachelor's degree from Purdue University's Engineering School and a law degree from Indiana University. Along with his work for Bosma Industries, he is actively involved in the Association of Retarded Citizens Trust, Bible Study Fellowship International and Servants of Christ Lutheran Church.

"I grew up in a family where public service was emphasized," Bosma says. "Giving back in some capacity was an expectation." Through his work inside and outside the Legislature, he has carried on the family tradition. ✨



CAPITOL CLIPS

Another tough budget year

A few months removed from a difficult legislative budget year, the Kansas Legislature is receiving early warnings that state finances could be tight again during the 2001 session.

According to *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, revenue collection this year is ahead of projections, but the state faces a \$166 million monetary hole that it will have to address next year. Along with receiving about \$60 million less in tobacco settlement money, the Legislature must by law add \$90 million to its highway fund and provide \$16 million for its higher-education reform act.

In 2000, the Legislature increased general fund spending by only .4 percent due to tight budget numbers.

Ohio law struck down by court

A 1980 Ohio law that set aside 5 percent of state building contracts for minority-owned firms was nullified last month by a three-judge panel in federal court.

The intent of the law was to redress past discriminatory practices by the state, but judges ruled that the legislation unfairly excluded white businesses from certain state contracts. According to *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the judges also

said the state was unable to prove past discrimination against black businesses.

The lawsuit was brought by Associated General Contractors of Ohio after \$10 million of a \$50 million Toledo prison project was set aside for minority business owners.

Judges said another problem with the law was that minorities not discriminated against by Ohio in the past — such as recent immigrants from Asia — were eligible for the minority set-asides.

In hot pursuit

The Michigan Senate passed two bills last month that would allow law enforcement agencies to pursue fleeing, non-felony offenders across state lines.

According to *The Detroit News*, Ohio and Wisconsin already have laws that allow for such chases across state boundaries. In Michigan, police chases are only allowed when officers are attempting to arrest felony suspects.

Democrat Sen. Donald Koivisto of Ironwood says his proposed bill would take away the incentives people currently have to flee police.

Inmates sue for pornography

Eleven South Dakota inmates have sued the

state over a new policy that prohibits prisoners from possessing pornographic material.

The state implemented the policy out of concern that pornography hampers sex offender treatment and that female correctional officers had to view the material during required searches of prisoners' possessions.

According to *The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*, a 1996 federal law bars pornography from federal prisons. That law originally was overturned by a federal judge but later upheld on appeal.

Trying to steer clear of casinos

Problem gamblers in Illinois who have a hard time staying away from casinos may soon get some help from the state.

The Illinois Gaming Board is considering implementation of a program in which people could ban themselves from all state casinos.

If they were then caught at a casino, the gamblers could be arrested on trespassing charges. According to *The State Journal-Register*, Missouri already has a similar program in place. That state has had 1,623 gamblers ban themselves, and 72 of them were caught inside casinos and arrested for trespassing.

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Stateline

July 2000

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of the

Midwestern Legislative

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August 6-9, 2000

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Minneapolis Marriott City Center

Register online at www.csgmidwest.org