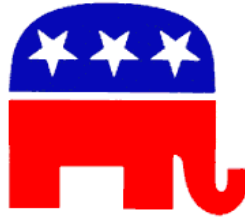


Republican Report

“Collecting more taxes than absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.” —Calvin Coolidge



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A message from the Republican Leader.....

The Republican Caucus is off to a great start and I am happy to report that our *whipping system* is up and running thanks to the efforts of both our Caucus Whip, Shawn Jasper and his Deputy Whip, Andy Renzullo. In the coming months they will be working hand-in-hand with our committee policy leaders and whips to make sure that we all remain on the same page when it comes to legislation affecting our core Republican issues. Of course, we will continue to oppose any new taxes or fees as well as any increase in spending. At any point during this session if you have a concern with a bill, please bring it to the attention of your committee policy leader. I also encourage you to bring any issue with you to our Republican caucus meetings, which will be held on a regular basis during this session.

To that end, I would like to thank all of you who made an attempt to attend our first major caucus of the session on Jan. 21st. It turned out to be a very successful meeting. We had the opportunity to hear from Representatives Neal Kurk and Norm Major on matters regarding both the budget and revenue. In the coming weeks, we will continue to bring in legislators with expertise in areas such as the budget, revenue, education, and the retirement system, among other topics. We will also, of course, give everyone the opportunity to discuss legislation currently in committee. Our next caucus will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 3:00 PM in Representatives Hall.

The next House Session, on Jan. 28, is not expected to be a long drawn-out affair. We will be asked to vote on a couple of bills, including **HB 30**, requiring operating budget reductions for fiscal year 2009. Although it passed out of Finance Committee unanimously, 25-0, it clearly—while a good first step—does not go far enough. Rep. Neal Kurk, our policy leader on Finance will brief the caucus on all of the details, both pro and con, during our Tuesday caucus.

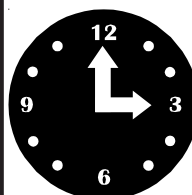
Here are some of the key points in **HB 30**:

- It reduces our current deficit by \$16.25M. According to Rep. Major's figures, this will leave the deficit at \$65M.
- The appropriations for the judicial branch will be reduced by an additional \$441,000.
- The operating budget of the legislative branch will be reduced by \$700,000.
- \$1.75 million of the general fund monies (\$6.75M) that were transferred to the highway fund will be returned to the general fund.
- The Finance Committee has “swept” \$6.6M in excess monies from several dedicated funds with no serious impact on services.

We will support the decision of the Finance Committee because it does somewhat reduce our deficit. But it is clear that there were no tough decisions made and, although it is a good first step, there is a lot more work to be done. I hope to see a good turnout at our caucus so we can further discuss HB 30 and its impact as well as many other issues facing us this session. Please remember that the door to the Republican Office is always open to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn".

Caucus Notice



There will be a Republican caucus on Tuesday, January 27 at 3:00 PM in Representatives Hall in the State House.





Legislative Update

During the past few days, leadership has signed-in, testified and taken a position on a number of bills being heard in committee. Here is a complete list of those bills:

Children and Family Law

HB 131—relative to meetings and reports of the juvenile justice advisory board. (oppose)

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

HB 198—permitting an insured person injured in a motor vehicle accident to obtain damages under his or her own uninsured motorist coverage when the insured's damages exceed the motorist insurance coverage of the person at fault for the accident. (oppose)

HB 199—requiring motor vehicle insurers to pay benefits to insured persons under their underinsured or uninsured motorist insurance coverage in cases of bodily injury or death cause by uninsured or underinsured negligent motorists, except under certain circumstances. (oppose)

HB 200—permitting the stacking of medical payments coverage under motor vehicle liability policies purchased by members of the same household. (oppose)

HB 202—relative to provisions in insurance policies limiting payment of full benefits.(oppose)

Environment and Agriculture

HB 283-FN—establishing a solid waste management fund and assessing a beverage container fee. (oppose)

Judiciary

HB 275-FN—increasing the state reimbursement amounts for payment of bailiffs. (oppose)

HB 285-FN—authorizing the supreme court to establish a fee to be imposed when a court extends the time for payment of a fine. (oppose)

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

HB 133—requiring employers to report certain information regarding outsourcing to the department of labor. (opposed)

Local and Regulated Revenues

HB 91—allowing municipalities to extend the veterans' tax credit to veterans who do not have service in a war or conflict, and relative to the definition of veteran. (support the concept)

Municipal and County Government

HB 43—relative to subdivisions and the site plan regulation waivers.(oppose)

HB 92—requiring municipalities to establish volunteer civilian police review boards. (oppose)

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 205-FN-A—relative to certain boating fees. (oppose)

Transportation

HB 34—relative to rules of the road. (oppose 2 of 4 parts)

HB 54—requiring vehicle impoundment for driving after revocation or suspension. (oppose)

HB 95—relative to motorcycle equipment and noise levels. (oppose)