



State Senator Katie Sieben

Dear Neighbors:

As you have heard, a budget agreement was reached yesterday between Governor Mark Dayton and the Republican controlled legislature. The final deal is a compromise, in that it spends \$35.7 billion for the next biennium, and averts some of the drastic cuts that were proposed by the legislature. Yet, I have some deep concerns over the way in which the final \$1.4 billion is generated.

Half of the \$1.4 billion is generated by delaying school aid payments, and half comes from selling tobacco bonds. My preference was to generate some of this revenue through a slightly higher percentage income tax on millionaires. Currently, they pay less as a percent of their income than middle-income Minnesotans, and the tax would have exempted small business owners.

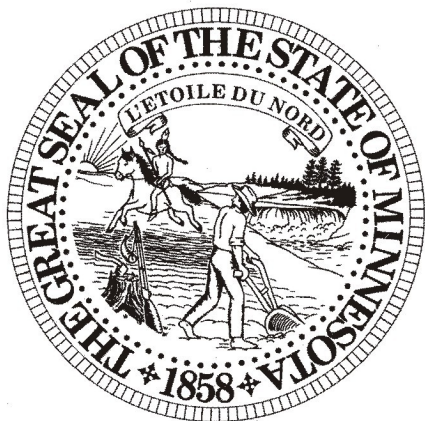
After the final budget bills are drafted and I receive those details, I will pass along more information. Similarly, details of a proposed bonding bill have not yet been shared. I am hopeful there will be projects contained in the bill for our area to address flooding issues and transit in particular.

It has not been announced, but it appears that a special session will be scheduled to begin on Monday. As some of you know, my husband and I are expecting our second child next week, too, so keep your fingers crossed that the special session and the birth of our son don't end up being the same day!

The state budget shutdown has been a tragedy in many respects. I am committed to working in a bipartisan manner to address the state's long-term structural budget issues. Additionally, although a compromise was reached, this crisis hasn't been completely resolved. Further, it shows the importance of working together, across party lines, to solve the state's problems. This will continue to be a priority for me.

How to Contact State Senator Katie Sieben

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CAPITOL UPDATE

Finally, I'd like you to know that I am donating my salary during the shutdown to the emergency fund at the Friends in Need food shelf in St. Paul Park.

Thank you for your emails and calls. I'll continue to update you on progress regarding the final budget bills as details become available.

My best,

Katie