



Citizens League Matters

June 11, 1991

News for Citizens League Members

Welcome new members

- Susan Anderson
- Dan Aschenbach
- Cindy Browne
- Sue Doty
- George Doty
- Patricia Eloffson
- Linda Ewen
- Mary Finlayson
- Carol Flint
- Nanette Grube
- Jim Hardman
- Thomas G. Heinrich
- Robert K. Hennesy
- Mat Hollinshead
- Cynthia Hummel
- David A. Jones
- Deborah Montgomery
- Ruth Nelson
- Richard Osgood
- Timothy J. Prescott
- Ron Salmela
- Mary Alice Schumacher
- Lee Sundet
- Theodore Wilson

Thank you recruiters

- Leon Carr
- Richard Flint
- David Grube
- Blanche Heinrich
- Bill Lahr
- Robert Montgomery, Sr.
- Lee Nelson
- Deborah Osgood
- Daniel Shuster
- Carol Stassen Taylor

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Legislators pass bills supporting League positions

Education, transportation, tax and fiscal policies enacted

The 1991 Minnesota Legislature enacted laws fully or partly achieving Citizens League recommendations, as worked out in League study committees, in a number of areas.

Among the most controversial issues was chartered schools, an idea originated in the late 1980s by Albert Shanker, president of

produced the compromise version that ultimately became law.

A coalition that included a number of cities, several counties, the League and the Metropolitan Council helped deflect efforts to reduce the sharing of metropolitan commercial and industrial property-tax base under the 1971 fiscal disparities law. **Rep. Charlie**

property taxes that a county may levy this year for LRT to 75 percent of its 1990 levy; and provided that any metro county may spend its transit money for social services in 1991.

The Senate approved, but the House killed, a provision written by **Sen. Gary DeCramer**, DFL-Ghent, Senate Transportation chair,

Changes in property tax laws and fiscal policies moved in directions the League has proposed.

the American Federation of Teachers, recommended by a 1988 League study committee chaired by **John Rollwagen** and supported this year by the Minnesota State Board of Education.

A compromise version of this legislation, worked out in a House-Senate conference committee and then approved over strong opposition from teachers' unions and school boards, allows teachers to form up to eight results-oriented chartered schools, with the approval of a local school district.

Chief authors **Sen. Ember Reichgott**, New Hope, and **Rep. Becky Kelso**, Shakopee, both DFLers, contributed greatly to the success of the bill, which also received valuable backing from two key Senate committee chairs: DFLers **Ron Dicklich**, Hibbing, and **Greg Dahl**, Ham Lake. **Rep. Ken Nelson**, DFL-Minneapolis,

Weaver, R-Champlin, worked closely with the coalition.

The Legislature did, however, under the leadership of DFL **Reps. Paul Ogren**, Aitkin, House Tax Committee chair, and **Ann Rest**, New Hope, a Tax subcommittee chair, adopt a number of so-called "good government" changes in the fiscal disparities law.

Legislators declined to finance metropolitan light-rail transit (LRT) with state taxes, consistent with League recommendations in reports of a 1990 subcommittee chaired by **Ted Kolderie** and a 1986 committee chaired by **Dean Lund**.

The Legislature also said the Metropolitan Council must approve any applications for federal aid for LRT; required reports on the operating subsidies any LRT proposal would need before requests for federal aid are submitted; cut the amount of

that directed the Metropolitan Council to assume leadership and develop a broad transit proposal (including LRT) covering all important metropolitan-area transportation corridors.

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Managed care review due in July

Publication of the League's *Minnesota Managed Care Review 1991*, originally scheduled for May, will be delayed until mid-July. Because of changes in reporting deadlines for health maintenance organizations, important data on hospital utilization are not available until July 1. If you want to order a copy or have questions about the new publication, please call the League office at 338-0791.