



State Senator

TORREY WESTROM

Legislative Update

Proudly serving the communities of Wilkin, Grant, Traverse, Douglas, Big Stone, Stevens, Pope & Stearns Counties

Legislative Update

February 2019

The 2019 legislative session is in full swing. However, the 2017-18 legislative session was historically productive. The legislature:

- Passed **health insurance premium relief and reform** for Minnesotans that lowered the cost for individual insurance by 25%, and under the national average
- Delivered a balanced budget that resulted in an over \$1 billion surplus
- Passed the **largest tax relief package** in nearly two decades
- Passed **\$35 million in funding** for the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) for **loans for farmers**
- Passed largest ongoing commitment to transportation in a decade—**\$550 million** over two years for roads and bridges
- Passed over **\$900 million in essential infrastructure projects**—like water treatment plants in Breckenridge and Morris
- Authored and passed **\$20 million** in rural broadband expansion
- Passed **\$1.3 billion increase** in K-12 education funding

Senator Westrom's Priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session

Many important pieces of legislation were unfortunately vetoed last year by then Governor Dayton. Some of my priorities this year are to repass those bills.

- Continue investment in rural broadband
- Make shopping for health care more transparent and guarantee coverage for preexisting conditions
- Hold government accountable on child care fraud, MNLARS, and statewide IT failures
- Build off Minnesota's surplus and conform our tax code to the federal changes to continue growing our economy
- Increase the per pupil funding and school safety allowing flexibility for districts to make local choices

