2026 END OF SESSION REPORT

Senator Ann Johnson Stewart

Dear Neighbor,

It has been my honor to represent District 45 in the Minnesota Senate. During this legislative session, I have fought to make our lives more affordable, our infrastructure more resilient, ensure continued access to essential healthcare services, and keep our communities safer.

The violence our communities have faced this year has taken a toll on all Minnesotans, from the Annunciation shooting to Operation Metro Surge. Masked, armed, and unidentified federal immigration officers across the state have been a direct threat to the lives and liberties of our neighbors, and have significantly impacted our state's economy. I will always fight for gun violence prevention and the rights of our immigrant neighbors.

In addition, I have worked with fellow legislators to equip state agencies to investigate and root out fraud.

In these tumultuous times and with great uncertainty from the federal government, I am committed to keeping Minnesota confidently moving forward.

Sincerely,
Senator
Ann Johnson Stewart

Committee Membership

- Vice Chair, Transportation
- Capital Investment (Bonding)
- Environment, Natural Resources, Climate and Legacy
- State and Local Government

Investing in Infrastructure

I am thrilled by this year's robust infrastructure bill, and am proud to have secured the first bonding dollars for Minnetonka Beach, Minnetonka, Minnetrista, and Excelsior. These funds will go to critical work to replace deteriorating water pipes and sewer systems to ensure our community has access to safe drinking water.

$2.5M Ridgedale Fire Station

$3M Minnetrista Water supply

$4.5M: Minnetonka Beach water and sewer reconstruction

$5.6M Excelsior Infrastructure

$1.2 Billion Investment across Minnesota

Safer Communities

School bus safety: This year we passed my bill to clarify state law on school bus stop arms after a court case found our statute to be unclear. Our students will be safer now that drivers must stop when red lights are flashing, even if the stop arm has not fully extended.

Gun Violence Prevention: I was proud to vote for the Senate's comprehensive gun violence prevention package, that included a point of sale ban on weapons of war and large capacity magazines, improved physical safety at schools, and funded crisis intervention. I'm disappointed that the House Speaker Lisa Demuth refused to let the House take a vote.

Accountability for ICE: We passed a bill to hold ICE accountable and to defend the civil and constitutional rights of Minnesotans after Operation Metro Surge. House Republicans refused to acknowledge the impacts of the federal invasion and wouldn't take a vote.

Decisive Action to Stop Fraud

This session we took the most comprehensive action in state history to detect and prevent fraud and hold criminals accountable. Dozens of agency-level reforms and improvements passed, along with significant new tools and oversight that will better protect taxpayer dollars and the services Minnesotans rely upon.

I was proud to be lead author on the **Medical Assistance Protection Act**, which provides funding for more investigators and enforcement tools in the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to hold criminals accountable for stealing public funds.

I also supported a new, statewide and independent **Office of the Inspector General** that will have broad oversight authority over state agencies, grant recipients, and contractors. The Senate passed this bill in 2025, and we welcomed the support of the Governor and House this year.

Protecting our Natural Resources

This year I authored a bill to establish separate permit requirements for industrial and commercial uses exceeding 100 million gallons of water per year. Because of our water resources, many water intensive industries come here, but our groundwater resources are increasingly strained. While the bill did not pass this year, I will continue this important work to protect our domestic water supply.

Keeping Property Taxes Down

In 2023, the state legislature passed more than $800 million in property tax relief that helped homeowners, renters, agricultural landowners, and local governments across the state. The devastation caused by federal cuts since 2024 have forced many counties to rely more heavily on property taxes, and many homeowners are feeling it.

This session, we fought for additional property tax relief to Minnesotans, and we prevailed – $125 million for direct property tax refund increases that homeowners will start seeing this fall.

$125M in property tax relief
$254M for vehicle tab fee break

The federal Republican budget bill is shifting costs onto our counties, while adding excessive administrative burdens that make public programs needlessly more complex. Counties cannot meet the needs of Minnesotans while shouldering new administrative burdens and having their budgets cut at the same time.

We provided significant funding to county's to support the modernization of their IT systems to keep up with new burdens, serve Minnesotans more efficiently, and detect fraud faster. We also established a modernization fund to provide stable funding for county projects into the future.

Saving HCMC and Stabilizing Access to Care

HCMC: When we began this session, my colleagues and I knew that HCMC was in a dire financial situation, and that the closure of our state's largest safety net hospital would have catastrophic consequences for patients, the healthcare workforce, and specialized care while creating ripple effects across our entire health care system.

We passed $205 million in immediate assistance for HCMC and established a $500 million budget reserve for longer term stability. The HCMC stabilization funding includes accountability and reporting requirements to ensure the investment supports long-term financial sustainability and protects access to critical services for Minnesotans statewide.

Mental Health: We invested in mental health services to improve access to care for children and families and strengthen community-based mental health crisis response systems. These include:

- $12.5 million for School Behavioral Health grants
- $3.8 million for Mobile Crisis Grants

Register to Vote!

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Proudly representing District 45: Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Long Lake, Minnetonka, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, Saint Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata, and Woodland

Prepared and paid for by Campaign of Ann Johnson Stewart, PO Box 288, Wayzata, MN 55391