

## **Margaret Anderson Kelliher**

### **Why do you want to be the Governor?**

Minnesota is facing difficult challenges in a down economy. For too long, we've watched our current governor and his party fail to lead our state forward. He and members of his party have been unwilling to make difficult decisions to honestly address our state's fiscal problems, choosing instead to rely on budget cuts alone. The truth is that Minnesota cannot cut its way out of its budget problems. We need a balanced approach to address our structural deficit that will put us firmly on the path toward future prosperity.

Minnesota needs real leadership, and I am running for governor to be the leader that moves our state forward. We need someone who can build partnerships, reach across the aisle and find common ground, and work for all Minnesotans to achieve our goals. I understand the challenges before us, and know what solutions are required to make improvements that will ensure a better tomorrow for us all.

### **What is your number one concern for the State of Minnesota?**

The number of Minnesotans who are out of work is a top concern of mine. I believe the most important job of our next governor will be leading Minnesota through economic recovery, and getting people back to work. That's why I have a plan to retain, restore and create jobs Minnesota families desperately need.

### **What do you feel is the role of a professional public employee? How will you demonstrate that you value to that state employee?**

Professional state employees make our state work. Professional public employees are experts in their field with extensive knowledge about state government and numerous ideas on how we can do our jobs more effectively. Engineers and other professional public employees are absolutely vital to our state and play a key role in maintaining our high quality of life.

I was very proud to earn the endorsement of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees. Following their endorsement MAPE Statewide President Chet Jorgenson said, "Speaker Kelliher is willing to bring people together to solve problems in a crisis. She has a history of respect for state workers and the jobs they do."

As Governor I will always approach state employees from a position of mutual respect. I will use the office of governor to publicly thank state employees and to increase the significance of our employee appreciation initiatives. When the budget situation improves, I will do everything I can to help public servants make up for years of stagnant wages.

### **Do you consider state employees an asset or a liability to Minnesota's economy?**

State employees perform an admirable service to our state and are a tremendous asset.

**Who should be doing most of the state's engineering work, state employees or consultants? If both, should their pay be equal? What is your view on outsourcing state engineering work?**

I oppose outsourcing and privatization of state services. Engineering work should be done by our in-house experts, not high priced consultants. Outsourcing state services has not proven to be more efficient nor has it delivered real cost savings.

**When the state budget is in deficit, should that affect wages of state employees? If so, how?**

I believe state employees should be treated fairly regarding issues of compensation and not bear the brunt of budget cuts. We must have a balance approach to our budget crisis. I believe the solution must include both revenue increases and strategic budget reductions. All Minnesotans need to share in the solution to our budget crisis. When our collective situation improves, I will make it a priority to make sure state employees are compensated for their earlier sacrifices.

**Are you in favor of state engineers, engineering specialists, and land surveyors getting cost of living wage increases?**

Cost of living adjustments are an important aspect of compensation to ensure wage rates remain fair and balanced. I support these adjustments so long as they are financially feasible to provide.

**What are your short-term and long-term priorities for the future of transportation in outstate Minnesota?**

The bridge collapse of 2007 was a harsh reminder of the importance of investing in repair and maintenance of our infrastructure. That's why I worked so hard to override Gov. Pawlenty's veto of the 2008 Transportation Bill. I am committed to ensuring we set clear maintenance priorities to ensure our infrastructure is safe and secure. To that end, I also believe in investing in new infrastructure projects to improve and expand our public roads. Investment in inter-state commerce creates jobs, promotes business start-up and expansion, and links communities to new markets to buy, trade, and sell goods and services.

**In its recently released Statewide Transportation Policy Plan, the Minnesota Department of Transportation identified a \$50 billion shortfall between the actions needed to meet the Department's performance targets for the state trunk highway system in the next 20 years and the funding that the Department expects to receive. (Cite: Mn/DOT Statewide Transportation Plan, page 7.2-11, and Mn/DOT's reporting on 2008 performance measures) If additional funding is unlikely, how will**

**your administration prioritize between transportation system expansion versus repair or maintenance of existing infrastructure?**

I will strongly support more revenue to improve that shortfall in funding necessary projects. Under my administration, it will be important for MnDOT to strike a balance between maintenance and expansion that makes financial sense and that fosters economic development.

**What is your plan to address our on-going problem of congestion and deteriorating infrastructure?**

The reality is that more revenue is needed in our state budget to address the issues of deteriorating infrastructure and congestion in our state. We can do more to improve and expand our transit system for congestion reduction with additional revenue. I have a proven record as a champion for Minnesota's roads, bridges, and infrastructure. With the effort of the legislature, we invested \$6 billion over 10 years by overriding the governor's veto of a transportation funding bill. I know that our override was a first step toward rebuilding our deteriorating infrastructure. I know that there is still much work to be done. Under my leadership, Minnesota would continue to build and maintain our infrastructure because it creates jobs today and builds our economy for growth tomorrow.

**How are we going to fund road construction in the advent of higher costs and lower tax revenue?**

I was the chief architect of the coalition to override the Governor's veto of the 2008 transportation bill that put the first new revenue into our transportation infrastructure in more than two decades. I strongly support investing needed resources into building and maintaining our infrastructure. Going forward, I believe Minnesota needs to find additional revenue sources to either supplement or replace the gas tax, which is not keeping up with demand, especially as Minnesotans are driving fewer miles per capita; a trend no likely to reverse. I think other options, such as mileage taxes and some limited bonding needs to be explored to fund our infrastructure in the future. An additional key component in the 2008 transportation bill was the metro sales tax option, which now allows metro counties the ability to fund transit infrastructure.

**Will you expand or cut back government spending? In what areas? How?**

I believe that to balance this unprecedented state budget crisis, you have to cut spending and raise revenue. A balanced approach of revenue increases, job protections, and sound budget cuts made through consultation of front-line government employees is how I will continue to approach solving our structural budget problems in Minnesota.

**Can you balance the state budget? If so, will you recommend raising revenue or cutting costs to do that?**

In my role as Speaker of the House and having served 10 years on the Ways and Means Committee, I have a more detailed understanding of the state budget than anyone in this race. The next Governor will have only 12 weeks from Election Day until they are required to put a budget on the desks of the Legislature. No one will be able to put together a budget that protects quality public services and makes the needed investments to grow this state if they wait until after the election to start developing a plan for how to address the budget gap. I want to work with public employees to identify cost savings measures that Governor Pawlenty has ignored (management to staff ratios, reduce outsourcing, maximize uncollected revenue collections, etc).

The state government needs more revenue to maintain the services that Minnesotans demand. As chief architect of the transportation override, I know like no one else how tough it can be to build a coalition to raise revenue in this state. While Minnesotans are more tax sensitive than many of our peer states, we are willing to pay for services when we know what the money is going for and we believe we are receiving value in return. At the same time, voters approved a sales tax increase dedicated to clean water, the outdoors, and our cultural heritage. In my three years as Speaker of the House, the House has passed significant revenue raising legislation every year. I am able to work the relationships I have with the legislature to ensure that even if we face smaller majorities in either or both chambers we will have the votes needed to put revenue raising bills on my desk in 2011.

**Would you support legislation that would allow state agencies to carry money from one biennium to the next?**

I think it makes sense to carry over funding up to a set amount of an agency budget.

**How do you intend to keep the state from experiencing a budget deficit every biennium?**

We have to invest and grow our way out of the budget situation we are in by raising additional revenues. As we all know, most state budget cuts have severe job losses connected to them and further cuts to state and local governments will only further the terrible job situation in Minnesota. The state can do some specific things this year to grow our economy, which will hopefully reduce the projected deficit going into fiscal year 2012 and as Speaker of the House, I will pursue as many of those possibilities as possible this year.

**Innovation. Science and technology have been responsible for half of the growth of the American economy since WWII. But several recent reports question America's continued leadership in these vital areas. What policies will you support to ensure that America remains the world leader in innovation?**

The key to long term economic success in Minnesota is a highly skilled workforce. A strong economy is built on the foundation of an excellent education system including early childhood, K-12 and higher education. I am a strong supporter of the New

Minnesota Miracle—a comprehensive system for reforming how we fund education that will provide stable, equitable funding for our schools.

I believe we have to make higher education more affordable. As governor, I will work with our community and technical colleges to identify ways to become more efficient by providing administrators the tools and support from government to cut costs without sacrificing the quality of education, and I will work to expand access to our 4-year public colleges and universities.

I believe Minnesota can be a leader in the technology economy by using technology for improving lives, making services more cost-efficient, and expanding broadband for everyone across the state. We also are fortunate that we have the University of Minnesota and research institutions around the state like Mayo, the Hormel Institute, and AURI as we look for innovation in the technology sector. As Governor, I would support efforts to expand opportunities for start-up capital to launch innovative, high-tech companies, the renewable energy standard to drive innovation, and building on the strengths of our medical device industry.

I believe we need to continue to be innovative in the way projects are designed, bid, and performed. Design Build has been a huge success in delivering projects. As a part of the transportation bill in 2008 there was a task force of labor, management, academia, and other industry partners to determine how to get best bang-for-the-buck on construction projects. I believe we should look closely at the findings of that task force and continue that sort of collaborative approach as we move forward.

**Energy. Many policymakers and scientists say energy security and sustainability are major problems facing the United States this century. They are important to Minnesota. What policies would you support to meet demand for energy while ensuring an economically and environmentally sustainable future?**

I will promote energy independence through greater reliance on clean, renewable resources, and continue Minnesota's strong tradition of environmental stewardship that partners with practical economic considerations.

As Speaker, I championed the passage of a renewable energy standard that requires 25 percent of the state's electricity must come from clean, renewable resources by 2025. The standard is the most aggressive in the nation. It puts Minnesota on the forefront of renewable energy generation with the potential for thousands of jobs in the clean energy industry.

Under my leadership, the legislature adopted a sweeping energy policy bill that focuses on energy efficiency and conservation, community-based energy development, and climate change mitigation. The legislature also passed the strongest legislation in the nation to help people responsibly recycle outdated electronics.

But our work must not end here. My commitment to making Minnesota more energy efficient and ensuring we become a lead producer of clean energy will continue as governor.

**Education. A comparison of 15-year-olds in 30 wealthy nations found that average science scores among U.S. students ranked 17th, while average U.S. math scores ranked 24th. What role do you think the state government should play in preparing K-12 students for the science and technology driven 21st Century?**

I am a big believer that education is the foundation of a strong economy. I also understand that the global economy has leveled the playing field. We are not just competing for jobs with other states, but countries as far away as China and India.

This means that we need to place greater emphasis on ensuring our students graduate with the knowledge and skills to succeed and obtain a good job.

As I mentioned before, I am a strong supporter of the New Minnesota Miracle—a comprehensive system for reforming how we fund education that will provide stable, equitable funding for our schools.

The role of state government is to ensure funding is available, so schools can deliver a high-quality education to all students across Minnesota. I want schools to have the financial resources to recruit the best and brightest teachers. I want to empower educators to seek new innovative approaches to learning, and then to share their success with other educators in Minnesota, so more students can benefit.