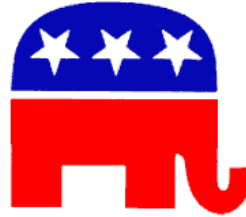


# Republican Report



*"Low taxes are the result of low spending"*

—former Gov. Meldrim Thomson



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## *A message from the Republican Leader.....*

We return to the House on Wednesday and, unlike the first week of April when we had a couple of marathon sessions featuring a number of highly controversial bills, this week's calendar is very light. In fact, there are only 20 bills on the consent calendar and three bills on the regular calendar. The session will begin at 1PM and the speaker has left the morning open for executive sessions. I would like once again to impress upon our members how very important it is to attend your committee executive sessions. If you cannot make it for any reason, please let leadership now in advance. If it is for medical reasons, we have the option of replacing you on the committee for the executive session.

I have scheduled a caucus for Wednesday at 12:30 PM (Rooms 305-07, LOB) in case something should come up between now and session day. I want to maintain an open flow of information between the caucus and our leadership team and our caucuses are a good platform to do this.

Crossover time is a good time for leadership stand back and take a good look at the first half of the legislative session—at things that we did right and at areas where we can improve—and we can always improve upon our methods and process. There are a couple changes that we will be instituting for the balance of this session.

Last week I began meeting with Republicans, committee by committee, to get their input on what we can do help members do their jobs, not only in committee but on the House floor as well.

I intend to continue these meetings over the next couple of weeks until I have met with Republicans on everyone of our standing committees. The first get together last week was extremely helpful in gathering information from members of our caucus and beginning to develop strategy for the remainder of this session.

One of the changes that we plan on making concerns the *white sheet* that we issue on session day. Beginning with the next session, the *white sheet* will include every bill that is listed on the regular calendar, regardless of whether or not Republican leadership has taken a position on the legislation. Additionally, the *white sheet* will provide you with a breakdown of the Republican vote total on each bill. If a bill passes out of committee, 12-8 for example, we will let you know where the eight Republicans stood on the issue. Our goal is to give you an even better idea of where Republicans stood on every bill in helping you to be more informed when voting. This information will be gathered by our Republican Policy Leaders and the Committee Whips and will be passed along to the House Republican Office for use on the *white sheets*.

There has also been some concern when it comes to strategy on the floor, especially when parliamentary maneuvering results in a series of additional votes that may not necessarily show up on the *white sheet*. As a result I intend to name a House Republican Floor Leader who will be in charge of all floor debates, parliamentary inquir-

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—Message

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ies and etc. Leadership also intends to be far more aggressive on the floor when it comes to the debates. I want to make sure that all of our members know exactly where leadership stands on every single issue that comes up for a vote. We should also all be on the same page when it comes to roll call votes because there are times when a number of Democrats will join us on an issue provided there is no roll call vote on the bill.

It is also important that we continue working together with the Republican State Committee, as well as our colleagues in the Senate to keep our constituents well informed as to what is happening at the State House. We have received some excellent press of late and we certainly don't want to wait until November of an election year to start educating our constituents. This should be an ongoing process. Jim and Paul from our office have been meeting on a weekly basis with representatives from both the State Committee and the Senate. This has proved very useful in keeping everyone on the same page when it comes to getting the message out on important issues. Ryan Williams has done a great job in taking information provided to him by both the House and Senate and turning it into press releases, op-eds, etc.

If we keep our constituents well informed now about what the Democrats are doing in Concord, when the elections roll around, the voters will have a clear choice at the polls: that of taxing and spending or the Republican alternative that reduces spending and ensures that we live within our means.

A number of you have requested comparative figures for use in discussing the budget with your constituents. According to Rep. Kurk, our policy leader on Finance, the figures for the general funds (not the total budget), including regular and education spending, are **\$2.4 million for 2010** and \$2.5 million for 2011 for a total of \$5M for

### Important Dates

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Wed., April 22</b>   | <b>Republican Caucus</b> —12:30 PM<br>Rooms 305-307, LOB  |
|                         | <b>House Session</b> —10:00 AM  |
| <b>Thurs., April 30</b> | Last day to report Senate bills going to a second committee.  |
| <b>Thurs., May 7</b>    | Last day to act on Senate bills going to a second committee.  |
| <b>Thurs., May 28</b>   | Last day to report all remaining Senate bills.<br>Last day to report list of retained Senate bills. |

the biennium. This compares with estimated spending (not appropriations) for 2008 of \$4.4 million and \$2.4 million for 2009 for a total of \$4.8 for the current biennium. This is a 3.9% increase. Of course, total spending increased even more, but that includes federal funds, and counts the stimulus and stabilization monies. The Republican budget totaled \$4,740.2 for the 2010/11 biennium, a decrease of -2.6% from 2008/09 spending.

Once again, if you need assistance in getting out your message, our office can help you organize your thoughts and get them to the media in your area. Feel free to use information found in the Republican Report in writing letters and op-eds for your local newspaper.

I look forward to meeting with all of you over the next couple of weeks so we can formulate our strategy for the rest of the session together.