



LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY OF MINNESOTA, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 25803, WOODBURY, MN 55125

www.lea-mn.org



Media Advisory: -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Contact: Don Lee
(651) 234-0052
president@lea-mn.org

LEA's initial reaction to the 2023 legislative session

St. Paul, MN, May 23, 2023 -- Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota (LEA) is preparing its 2023 report. LEA has been rating the performance of the Minnesota legislature since 1972.

LEA President Don Lee remarked “While Minnesotans struggled with inflation, COVID disruptions, education failures, higher crime, and economic anxiety, the voters elected our governor and legislators according to their promises to cut taxes and provide \$2000 rebates from a huge surplus. Instead, the Legislators used the surplus to increase state government by over 35% and raised numerous taxes. To add insult to injury, they added a \$2.6 billion bonding bill.”

The level of spending increases, attacks on parental rights, and other controversial policy changes are on a pace never before witnessed in the history of LEA.

LEA normally focuses on legislative and constitutional processes. We noted a number of processes in 2023 that prevented citizen input and accountability of the legislature.

- Large omnibus bills came out of conference committee with controversial provisions that had not been passed in the original floor versions by either legislative body. Example: Gas tax increase indexed to inflation.
- Bills that had controversial provisions removed before being passed on the floor had those provisions re-inserted in conference committees with no opportunity to amend the bill on final passage. Examples: pedophile wording deletion in public safety bill, and post-secondary enrollment option program restrictions for colleges with statements of faith.

Election laws were modified to make the process easier, while reducing election security.

- Permanent absentee voter list.
- Automatic voter registration employing virtually all state agencies as voter registrants.
- Greater restrictions on political speech.

LEA reports and legislative scorecards back to 1972 are available at <http://lea-mn.org>.

About the LEA:

Established in 1972, the Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota (LEA) is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, established to inform the citizens of Minnesota of both important legislation and the voting performance of each Minnesota state legislator. LEA bases its evaluation on America's declared founding principles of self-evident truths and inalienable rights. These principles provide a basis for a constitutionally limited government established to protect life, liberty, justice, property rights and free enterprise.