



“Anything of importance in state finance this year is going to be touched on in Minnesota.”

Dan Bucks
Executive Director, Multistate Tax Commission
In the *Wall Street Journal* (3/5/01)

“Mr. Ventura’s Plan to broaden the sales tax, adds Harley Duncan, Executive Director of the Federation of Tax Administrators...meets most precepts for sound tax policy you’d find in textbooks.”

In the *Wall Street Journal* (3/5/01)

It is interesting that some Fortune 500 companies are complaining about my tax plan.

For the last ten years they have been complaining that Minnesota’s property taxes and income taxes are too high and hurt our business climate and so I am reducing both.

I guess these Fortune 500 Companies are like our big education institutions—no matter how much you try to help them it’s never enough.

The bottom line is that the Ventura Tax plan will benefit small business, farmers and families greatly, but it will also be good for large corporations.

It a matter of choices. You can’t have everything and you can’t please everyone.

K-12 Budget Talking Points

Some school districts are claiming that I am only raising K-12 education by less than 1%.

Fact: My budget raises K-12 education finance by 4.4% for the 2002/2003 biennium.

The percentage increase in total revenue available to school districts over the next biennium from state and local sources is:

- 2.6% increase in 2002 over 2001
- 3.7% increase in 2003 over 2002

These numbers factor in state and local revenues and enrollment changes.



Special Education

By not living up to their commitment to fund special education at the 40% level—since 1982 the federal government has shorted us \$2.8 billion dollars.

For example: If the federal government lived up to their promise, next year the State of Minnesota would receive \$291 million dollars—almost two and a half times what we now receive.

Important Education Reforms We Need This Year:

- Change the way we pay teachers so that teachers aren't all paid the same whether they are good at their job or not.
- Make teachers “essential employees” so that they can't hold our children hostage by threatening to strike.
- Require school boards to have structurally balance budgets out four years so that they can't enter into labor contracts for more money than they have in their budgets.
- Make teacher licensing more flexible.