

# The choice is yours—the choice is clear.

	<b>Andy Welti</b>	<b>Bill Kuisle</b>
<b>BUILDING BIPARTISANSHIP</b>	<p>Andy Welti, a moderate Democrat, has authored many bills over the past four years and collaborated with several of his Republican colleagues to co-author his legislation.</p> <p>Andy Welti has built the bipartisan coalitions necessary to pass legislation important to SE Minnesota and the entire state. Andy votes for both Democrat and Republican bills—he votes for what is best for the district and state, no matter who authors the bill.</p>	<p>Andy's opponent voted 96.7% of the time along party lines. (2003-2004 sessions)</p>
<b>HIGHER EDUCATION</b>	<p>Andy Welti serves on the Higher Education Committee. Andy voted for and co-authored legislation to reduce tuition increases to the lowest level seen in years; supported funding for the U of M, Rochester Campus and the Mayo/U of M Genomics Partnership; voted to expand GI bill benefits for returning veterans (HF 797/SF 1989, HJP 6195); authored a bill to increase funding for agriculture research at the U of M (HF 954); and, authored the bill to fund the co-located Workforce Center at the RCTC Campus (HF 2484).</p>	<p>When he was in office, Andy's opponent voted to cut the higher education budget which resulted in 12-15% annual increases in college tuition. (SF 675, HJP 4055) He also authored a bill to restrict the number of years a college student could receive state grants. (HF 449 introduced 2/17/03)</p>
<b>E-12 EDUCATION</b>	<p>Andy Welti has been a strong advocate for our local school districts. He authored legislation to bring more dollars to our local districts and decrease the funding disparity that exists between school districts (HF 839). Andy voted to restore funding to Early Childhood Family Education, Head Start, and School Readiness programs (HF 2245, HJP 7557). He supported increasing funding for our area schools by 2% each year over the next two years, paying for past unfunded mandates, and providing funding for voluntary all day every day kindergarten (HF 2245, HJP 7557 and HF 1812, HJP 12723).</p>	<p>Andy's opponent voted to cut public school funding in 2003 by \$185 million, the largest direct cut in decades. (SSHF 51/HSSJP 50)</p>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	<p>Andy Welti voted to provide health care access to children in Minnesota (SF 2171, HJP 4315) and to invest in greatly needed mental health care access. He voted for critical changes to nursing home reimbursement rates and for pay raises for our nursing home and intermediate care facility staff, and funding for senior nutrition, companion and senior volunteer programs. (HF 1078, HJP 7565) Andy also voted for payment reform—uniform billing, implementation of electronic medical records, emphasis on preventative care, and incentives for employees and employers to help them afford health care coverage with the goal to reduce health care costs. (HF 1078, HJP 7565; SF 3780, HJP 12431)</p>	<p>In 2003, Andy's opponent voted to eliminate health care coverage for 38,000 Minnesotans, including about 15,500 children; cut payments to nursing homes and hospitals which increased health care costs for everyone; imposed the \$2,000 “granny tax” on nursing home residents; and reduced services that help seniors live independently. (SSHF 6 HSSJP 771)</p>
<b>PROPERTY TAX RELIEF</b>	<p>Andy Welti voted for increasing Local Government Aid payments to cities and aid payments to counties to help alleviate property tax increases next year. Andy voted to decrease the first tier agricultural homestead property tax rate from 0.55% to 0.5% of market value. And, he voted to increase the refund for those who qualify for the property tax refund program. (HF 3149, HJP 12910)</p>	<p>In 2003, Andy's opponent voted to significantly cut LGA to our area. (SSHF 7/HSSJP 316) When LGA is cut, cities must cut services such as police and fire protection, or raise property taxes to cover the shortfall.</p>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<p>Andy Welti voted for the 2007 Omnibus Public Safety Finance bill (HF 829, HJP 5226) which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Strengthened domestic violence laws</li> <li>■ Invested in BCA scientist positions to more quickly resolve cases</li> <li>■ Authorized additional judgeships to help alleviate the backlog in our courts</li> <li>■ Appropriated funds to hire peace officers</li> <li>■ Funded gang and drug task forces</li> <li>■ Restored funding for crime victims services including battered women's shelters, domestic violence, crime victims, sexual assault, and abused children's programs, to restore the cuts made in 2003.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2003, Andy's opponent voted to cut the Minnesota Gang Strike Force funding by an astonishing 84%. He voted to cut 10% from battered women's shelters, 50% from drug policy grants, 7% from the Department of Corrections, and 38% from Crime Victims Sexual Assault grants. (SSHF 2/HSSJP 21, 2003)</p>
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b>	<p>Andy Welti has never accepted special interest (PAC or lobbyist) money. This allows Andy to cast his votes without lobbyist or special interest influence.</p>	<p>Andy's opponent has reported accepting over \$13,000 in PAC and lobbyist contributions. (www.cfboard.state.mn.us)</p>
<b>ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT</b>	<p>In 2007-08, Representative Welti supported passage of one of the strongest renewable energy standards in the United States. Minnesota now requires that 25% of electricity come from renewable sources by the year 2025. (SF 4, HJP 446) Representative Welti supported legislation to encourage the production of more wind, hydrogen, geothermal, and solar energy. (SF 4, HJP 446; HF 2227, HJP 4970; SF 2096, HJP 5628; SF 3096, HJP 12368) He also supported increasing alternative transportation options. He understands the need for multiple sustainable energy sources for home, business, industry and transportation.</p> <p>Andy also supported creating the Green Jobs Task Force that will develop a statewide action plan to recruit businesses involved in the manufacture and installation of renewable energy sources. (SF 3096, HJP 12368)</p> <p>Representative Welti voted to reduce mercury emissions from the state's largest power plants (2005/06 HF 3712, HJP 7404), clean up Minnesota's waters (SF 2096, HJP 5628), fund habitat conservation (HF 380, HJP 9689), and supported efforts to decrease and prevent the spread of invasive species. (SF 2096, HJP 5628)</p>	<p>In his last four years in office, Andy's opponent averaged one of the lowest approval ratings (8.25%) from the Minnesota League of Conservation Voters. His own party's majority leader averaged a 15% rating during the same period. (www.mnclv.org)</p>
<b>JOB GROWTH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Authored a bill to create incentives for individuals to put their money in local investment funds, which will provide capital for local main street, entrepreneurial, and agricultural businesses. (HF 361)</li> <li>■ Provided assistance to businesses to obtain research and financial resources. (HF 1812)</li> <li>■ Voted for several bills that will create opportunities for more “green collar” energy jobs. (SF 4, HJP 446; HF 2227, HJP 4970; SF 2096, HJP 5628; SF 3096, HJP 12368)</li> <li>■ Voted for bonding and transportation bills that will add thousands of jobs throughout the state. (HF 380, HJP 9689; HF 2800, HJP 7889)</li> </ul>	
<b>IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT</b>	<p>Andy Welti believes that immigrants should comply with America's laws. He has voted to ensure that police officers and other employees have the ability to enforce federal immigration laws while ensuring that racial profiling does not occur. (HF 3010, HJP 8751; HF 3201, HJP 8058 and HJP 8095) He believes in holding undocumented workers, and those who knowingly hire them, accountable for their actions.</p>	