

Royd Chambers
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Fifth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221
e-mail – royd.chambers@legis.state.ia.us

HOME ADDRESS
1001 7th Street
Sheldon, IA 51201
Home: (712) 324-2694



House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Fourth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Education
Veterans Affairs,
Chair

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Transportation, Infrastructure and
Capitals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 18, 2011

Contact: R. Chambers: 712-324-2694

Recently, House Republicans announced budget targets for the fiscal year 2012 budget. The targets fulfill campaign promises of aligning ongoing spending with ongoing revenue. This is in contrast to the last four years when ongoing revenue was not sufficient to cover all of the increased spending demanded by the former governor and legislature. Remember, the fiscal year 2011 budget approved by Legislative Democrats and former Governor Culver last year spent \$6.35 billion and included \$872 million in one-time funds. That use of one-time funds has created a difficult budget situation, as you know.

For fiscal year 2012, Governor Branstad recommends expenditures of just over \$6.1 billion, or a decrease of \$185 million. This is the first budget proposal in five years to align spending with projected revenue. While I think this is a good start, it does not go far enough.

House Republican budget targets propose spending \$477 million less than the expenditure limitation under current law. Republicans are committed to shrinking the size of government and the burden on taxpayers. So that people know the seriousness of our efforts, we accept the premise that programs we like are going to have to be cut, as well as those we don't think are necessary. But this work must be done so the state has the ability to fund priorities like public safety and taking care of the most needy.

In other important business, the House set K-12 allowable growth for next year at zero percent. That effort backfills the 10 percent across the board cut ordered by Democrats last year and increases aid to schools by \$216 million. Also, the House proposed providing \$47 million in property tax relief for school districts affected by declining enrollment. Other parts of the education system will probably see some cuts, but K-12 will be supported as much as possible.

As I write this, the House is debating House File 194 which proposes a 20 percent cut in Iowa's income tax rate. There are two philosophies at battle here. One believes more government is better and you the citizen need to give more of your money to government. Government knows best. The other philosophy believes you the citizen should keep more of your own money, and make your own decisions in how to spend and save. You know best. The latter is where I stand. I'm convinced that this move will spur economic growth in a variety of ways. That means more jobs and more income.

Track what is going on at the legislature by going to <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>
Contact me any time in the Iowa House by calling 515-281-3221 to leave a message, or by e-mail at royd.chambers@legis.state.ia.us Royd Chambers of Sheldon represents House District 5, which consists of O'Brien, Osceola, the rural parts of Clay, and 4 townships in Sioux County.