

This week is the most important week of the session for House Democrats. House Appropriations members have set an example for all of us about how to stand up for principle and do what is really right for those who are most in need of government services.

1. Voting Procedures

- a. We are winning on our issues because we are unified and objecting to a procedure which would keep us from adequately funding essential government services, after years of neglect.
- b. To get our budget up to desired levels, we need to say "No" to the six-pack. Amendments, the bills, everything. Saying no to the six-pack will allow us to say yes to a unified state budget later in the session.
- c. If anyone is waffling, you owe it your caucus members, the Governor, the Attorney General, the Superintendent, the Auditor, the Senate, and your leadership to let them know now.
- d. Remember to follow Parker on all procedural votes. He will vote early for you to follow.
- e. Follow Parker on his vote regarding approval of the Committee Report. Please Vote early on the Committee of the Whole Report. This is another way we may be able to out maneuver the other side.

2. Floor Performance

- a. This debate must be the definition of a structured debate for Art to manage the floor effectively. If you want to speak on an issue, let Art know now.
- b. Please find at least one point you feel passionately about in the budget and prepare an argument about why that should be funded in a unified statewide budget.
- c. Let Art Noonan know what that is so he can work it into the script. He is the conductor and we are the orchestra. He needs to hear from you so he can choreograph our floor debate.

3. Press and Media Messaging

- a. Please write an article for your local papers this week spreading our message on the budget. Annie has a stock piece to send if you feel crunched for time.
- b. Speak from the floor with the news story in mind. Be brief and concise.
- c. "We oppose these bills on their content, their legality, and on their process."

4. Amendments

- a. Be prepared for amendments offered to "buy" your vote (i.e. Sinrud offering amendments to fund the COT in Great Falls to get Eve and Tim's vote in committee).
- b. Don't take the bait. They are simply setting the trap to peel us away from their flawed, unconstitutional process.
- c. If we hold strong we (or the other chamber) will be able to add to the budget to get it to an acceptable level.