

Alliance for a Better Minnesota Fact Check: State of the State 2010

Narrator	The Facts
<p>Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty Gives his Last State of the State Address, February 11, 2010</p> <p>Since the Republican took the Governor's office....</p> <p>“The State of Minnesota is “ Class size has grown</p> <p>Tim Pawlenty at the podium saying “The State of Minnesota is “</p> <p>Our roads are in the worst shape ever.</p> <p>Tim Pawlenty at the podium saying “The State of Minnesota is “</p> <p>Meals on Wheels and 4-H programs have been cut.</p> <p>Tim Pawlenty at the podium saying “The State of Minnesota is “</p> <p>Thousands of disabled Minnesotans are losing care.</p> <p>We don't think that's something to clap about.</p> <p>It's time for a change.</p>	<p><u>Statewide Survey Finds Class Sizes on the Rise</u> Their responses are varied but there is one answer that all school officials report in common. Principals and teachers report a steady, destructive rise in the ratio of students to teachers. Many elementary classes are at ratios of 25 to 1, while many high school classes are well past 33 to 1. [Minnesota 2020, 9/3/08]</p> <p><u>Flat Funding Crowding Classes in Rochester</u> “Kindergarten we went from 17 to 20, in first grade we went from 20 to 24,’ Allen said. In fourth and fifth grade the class size will go from 28 to 31... Severson blamed flat state funding as part of the reason the district has such a budget shortfall. She said the district is also paying for a new school, and faces increased costs from bargaining contracts and health care.” [Minnesota Public Radio, 4/22/09]</p> <p><u>Minnesota Roads Falling Apart</u> At the same time, more major highways are falling into poor condition, the draft report showed - 2.6 percent of the system in 2007 and a projected 7.6 percent by 2011. The comparable figure in 2000 was 0.7 percent. For non-principal trunk highways, the news is even worse: In 2007, 6.5 percent of those roads were rated poor. The prediction for 2001 is 11.4 percent. (MN 2020, 2/19/08)</p> <p><u>Meals on Wheels Funding Cut in 2003 HHS Budget</u> (The Bill) Cuts about 15 percent from Meals on Wheels, foster grandparent programs and other senior volunteer efforts, totaling nearly \$6 million. [Minnesota Public Radio, 5/30/03]</p> <p><u>County Aid Cuts Lead to 4-H Funding Cuts</u> News that Washington County's Board of Commissioners is planning to cut the entire 4-H budget of \$131,000 is disturbing, because school districts are cutting after-school activities, particularly sports for middle school age students... Washington County commissioners are struggling with having to cut budgets because of a loss of a projected \$3 million in state and local funding. [ABC Newspapers, 3/25/09]</p> <p><u>Pawlenty Cut Funding For Personal Care Services For As Many As 1,600 Disabled Minnesotans.</u> In 2009, Minnesota Public Radio reported that “Gov. Pawlenty signed a Health and Human Services budget bill that will cut funding for personal care attendants. Estimates say as many as 1,600 disabled people will lose PCA services altogether. Another 7,000 people...could lose hours.”</p>

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[Minnesota Public Radio, 6/4/09]