

State Representative Jerry Newton announced his intention to run for the Minnesota Senate in the 2016 election, formerly held by State Senator Alice Johnson. Newton's experience, leadership and ability to reach across the aisle to get things done will serve him well in representative Senate District 37.

Jerry began serving our nation directly out of Osseo High School, spending 23 proud years in the US Army. Upon returning to Blaine, he took over his family's grocery business, the Blaine Dairy Store, eventually expanding to two locations. Jerry understands service and understands the needs and concerns of small businesses.

"Over the years I've employed hundreds of people in our community," Newton said. "I take pride in giving many neighborhood children their first job. I am a firm believer that our economy needs to work for everybody who is willing to put in the time and effort to get ahead, especially the middle class."

Jerry Newton championed the development of the Riverdale shopping complex, resulting in a regional retail hub and providing thousands of good paying jobs for the community. While on the Coon Rapids City Council, Jerry developed and implemented a new kind of railroad crossing which improved safety and reduced noise.

Jerry served on the Anoka Hennepin School Board and understands the complex issues schools face today. "The opportunity to succeed in life is built on education, and I am committed to investing in students from early childhood through college," Newton said. "I support increasing funding for our children's education so Minnesota's students are prepared to out-innovate the competition and succeed in a modern economy."

Minnesota students should be able to work hard and earn an advanced degree without graduating with a mountain of student debt. Newton also emphasizes that we must address the issue of restructuring or alleviating the burden of debt thrust onto graduating college students today. "This debt is hampering economic growth and the state has an obligation to deal with this issue," Newton said. "Access to a great education will ensure our workforce is prepared for better jobs, make our state a place of innovation, and build an economy that increases opportunity for all Minnesotans. In order to accomplish that, we cannot impair students with a mountain of debt."

"Minnesota has not kept up with needed investments in our transportation system for the last 25 years; we cannot keep using short-term fixes for our long-term transportation funding problem," said Newton. "It is past time to invest in our roads and bridges - not only to maintain them, but to ensure they can handle our future needs so our economy can grow and prosper."

Newton calls for a long-term, dedicated, and comprehensive funding solution that will ensure Minnesota's roads and bridges are safe to drive on, our seniors and veterans' needs are met, and our businesses do not incur unnecessary costs. All Minnesotans benefit from a safe and robust transportation system, including families, small businesses, and our state's largest employers.

"I am excited to serve our Senate district and will remain committed to work across party lines to do what it takes to make our communities better," Newton said.