

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mora, MN – Kanabec County Commissioner Roger Crawford filed at the Minnesota Secretary of State's office on Tuesday, May 18th to put his name on the ballot for the office of State Representative. Crawford said that filing on the first day of the filing period was symbolic of the urgent need to address the state's financial problems and high unemployment.

"The current Legislature has once again ignored our long-term budgetary problems and pushed it off for the next Legislature and the next Governor to fix," Crawford said, noting that the next Legislature will likely have to deal with a deficit of \$5 billion or more. "Our state's leaders need to start thinking long term about how we are going to streamline and reform the system to solve our state government's financial problems." Crawford pointed to his record of writing budgets with taxpayers in mind and keeping taxes low for the citizens he represents. His efforts on the Mora city council and as mayor have resulted in Mora having one of the lowest per capita tax levies of any city its size.

Similarly, as a Kanabec County Commissioner, Crawford successfully led efforts to freeze the county levy and reduce commissioner salaries. Crawford stated, "We need public servants who are willing to sacrifice their own personal gain. If we can do that, it's much easier to say no to the special interests who seek public money."

Crawford sees job creation, taxes and spending, health care and education as top priorities in the coming year. "There are a lot of issues important to a lot of people, but to the person who doesn't have a good paying job, most issues are of less importance," Crawford stated."

Roger Crawford is a Mora resident and operates his own business as a real estate appraiser from his Mora office. "Owning a main street business gives one a real connection to the local people and their needs," Crawford said. "There are few areas of our local economy that have suffered more than real estate. I know what people are facing when they suffer declining home values, combined with the uncertainty of being able to keep a job."

Crawford has been an educator and school administrator, having worked in both private and public schools. He is a U. S. Navy veteran, and currently serves in the American Legion Honor Guard. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a past board member of the Mora Area Youth Recreation Association.

Roger Crawford has been married to his wife Barbara for 37 years and has four grown children and four grandchildren.

The Representative in Minnesota House District 8B represents the citizens of Kanabec County, the south half of Pine County and the northern townships of Isanti County. Cities include; Mora, Pine City, Hinckley, Sandstone and Ogilvie.

For more information, visit www.voteforcrawford.com or call Roger Crawford at 320-679-3953.

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