



For Immediate Release
November 29, 2006

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State's Forecast Brings Tempered Optimism
Minnesota Budget Project Calls on Policymakers to Make Progress in Solving the Challenges Before the State

(St. Paul) – The Minnesota Budget Project, an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, finds some good news in the state's economic forecast released today, which is expected to show a surplus of at least \$1 billion.

"We are glad to see a more positive forecast, but we shouldn't forget the sacrifices many Minnesotans made and are still making to get our budget into balance," said Christina Macklin, Policy Analyst at the Minnesota Budget Project.

The Minnesota Budget Project is encouraged by the administration's recent comments in support of more adequate reserves and the need for budget deliberations to take the impact of inflation into account. The Minnesota Budget Project is urging the Legislature to act this session to start building more robust reserves and to officially recognize the impact of inflation in the state's forecasts.

"Minnesotans expect policymakers to make progress in solving the challenges before the state, including the need for affordable health care and other policies that contribute to successful families and communities," said Nan Madden, Minnesota Budget Project Director. "The forecast shows that the state has some resources to start making progress. The Minnesota Budget Project will be expecting policymakers in 2007 to begin crafting solutions so that soon Minnesota will have enough resources to make the needed investments in the state's economic future and quality of life."

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The Minnesota Budget Project — an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits — provides independent research, analysis, and advocacy on budget and tax issues, emphasizing their impact on low- and moderate-income Minnesotans and the organizations that serve them.