



REP. KAREN MINNIS

House Speaker

Speaker of the Oregon House Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) is serving her third term, representing House District 49 which includes the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village in East Multnomah County. Speaker Minnis served as House Majority Leader during the 71st Legislative Assembly in 2001-03.

Representative Minnis has previously served as Chair of the Ways and Means subcommittee on Education and has served on the Emergency Board in both the 1999-2000 and 2001-02 interims, the Ways and Means subcommittee on Public Safety committee, the Commission on Black Affairs and the Spinal Cord Research Board.

Born and raised in Portland, Representative Karen Minnis has extensive legislative experience. Before being elected to her first term in 1998, she served for six terms as Legislative Assistant to State Representative John Minnis, her husband. John Minnis is now the State Senator from Senate District 25. She is a graduate of James Monroe High School, and has attended Clark Community College. Married since 1972, Representative Minnis and her husband have two sons and a daughter.

Accomplishments From 2001-02

Among the issues Representative Minnis is most proud of from the 2001 regular session and 2002's five special sessions, three rise to the top:

- **Penalties for Assaulting a Police Officer:** Raised the penalty from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class C Felony. This raised the penalty from a year in prison and \$5,000 fine to a maximum of 5 years and \$100,000.
- **Oregon Women's Initiative:** A package of legislation promoted by the House Republican Caucus, the Oregon Women's Initiative contained eight pieces of legislation aimed at the health and welfare of Oregon's women, children and families. Six of the eight pieces of legislation were signed into law by the governor. They are:
 1. HB 2767: Allowing victims of domestic violence to receive unemployment benefits while they are finding a new job if they are required to change employment due to the circumstances of the abuse.
 2. HB 3376: Creating the Task Force on Promotional and Career Opportunities to look at women's earnings in Oregon, examine the number and type of women-owned businesses and the business resources available to them.
 3. HB 2503: Placing specific restrictions on released sex offenders.
 4. HB 2663: Extending the statute of limitations for rape and sodomy crimes.
 5. HB 3680: Allowing previous acts of domestic violence to be admitted in court when the person faces new domestic violence charges.
 6. HB 2353: Creating tough penalties for the use of "date rape" drugs.
- **Prevented the governor from raising income taxes:** During five special legislative sessions this year, the House Republicans stopped the Democrats and Governor Kitzhaber from unilaterally increasing Oregonians' income taxes. Republicans succeeded in having the governor's increased income taxes referred to the people, which will occur at a January 28, 2003 special election.

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