

**Issues in and Impacts of the 2008 Legislative Session on Brown County
BBC County Congress of Elected and Appointed Officials
January 18, 2008**

Brown County State and Federal legislators were invited to discuss the 2008 Legislative Session. Small groups defined these issues as they impact Brown County. Then, the legislators or their representative summed up the discussion and shared how this information impacts their work in the legislature. Top four issues by small groups included: Transportation, Education funding, Energy/Utilities and Health Care.



Attending representatives:
Gerald Woodley, Senator Norm Coleman’s Office
Representative Brad Finstad
Lt. Governor, Carol Molnau
Senator Dennis Frederickson
Wendy Haavisto, Senator Frederickson’s office

Identified issues:

Transportation	Funding via gas tax or property tax vs. bonding Effect on businesses/ new residents Land acquisition along Hwy 14 Roads & Bridges funding Metro mass transit vs. road work
Education funding	Declining enrollment vs. increased needs Special education funding Funding formula
Energy/Utilities	Mandates for renewable sources (Ethanol & wind) Costs and benefits
Health Care	Coverage for children Raising costs Nursing home funding\ Critical access hospitals Impact of health care costs on business
Farm Bill	Particularly regarding the vegetable growers
Federal Rebate	economic stimulus for businesses and individuals.
SEED	Impact on rural development (increased opportunities, bipartisan support)
Redistricting	Shift to metro area Population vs. needs
Youth at Risk Funding	Increased reliance on nonprofits for services
Sales Tax on Constriction costs	Up front reduction vs. reimbursement
Unfunded mandates	state needs to back up with \$
Main Street support	Historical preservation support Small business support



Bridging Brown County

The Brown County Congress is sponsored by Bridging Brown County. This event provides an opportunity for key community leaders to come together, build partnerships and communicate with decision-makers. For more information about our organization and programs, please visit our web site, www.bridgingbrowncounty.org.