

Representative **Michael Beard** (R) – District 55A

Born and raised in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, Minnesota State Representative Mike Beard graduated from Clearfield High School in 1971. He earned his B.A. from Bethany College of Missions in Bloomington, Minnesota in 1975 and studied entrepreneurial course work at the College of St. Thomas.

Beard, a business owner, is recognized as a reasoned voice for fiscal responsibility and free market opportunity. He owned Beard Communication, Inc., which published the Lutheran Journal Magazine, Macalester Park Books and the Minnesota Christian Chronicle newspaper for 12 years. Currently, he owns Beard Aircraft Company, which buys, restores and sells older General Aviation airplanes. His private-sector experience in aviation, railroading, and trucking has afforded him broad expertise in the area of transportation. After serving a term as Republican lead on the House Transportation Committee, Mike Beard was appointed Chair for two years in 2011, and again as lead in 2013.

In addition to his service on the Transportation Committee, Beard also serves on Energy Policy and Finance, Ways and Means; and as Vice-Chair of the Legislative Audit Commission. He was also appointed to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, which brings together state leaders from across the region to advocate for passenger rail improvements.

In addition to his work at the legislature, he is an active member of his community. He is a former member of the Shakopee City council, a board member and past president of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Downtown Partnership. He has served on the Regional Transit Board and the Scott County Transportation Coalition and is currently serving on the board of directors of Bethany Press International, the Benedictine Health System board of directors, and as Chair of the Board for the Saints Healthcare Foundation in Shakopee.

State Representative Beard is a 27 year resident of District 55A (the city of Shakopee and townships of Jackson and Louisville). In November of 2012, Beard was elected to his sixth term representing one of the fastest growing districts in the country, making it the most populous district in Minnesota. He currently lives in Shakopee with his wife of 42 years, Karen, a nurse for Allina. Together they have four children and twelve grandchildren.