

Minnesota Matters blog: The lighter side of public policy

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What could become Minnesota's answer to Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert is on stage on Thursday nights at Huge Improv Theater in Uptown Minneapolis. [The Theater of Public Policy](#) is a clever blend of public policy discussion and improvisational comedy aimed at leaving audiences both laughing and thinking.

I was the featured guest at last night's show. Though I won a few chuckles from the audience, my role was as "straight woman," answering questions posed by the audience and by moderator (and troupe co-founder) Tane Danger. My answers set up the skits that followed. Six actors used playground games, Ebenezer Scrooge, a Roman Catholic confessional and a variety of other settings to probe legislative gridlock, lawmaking via constitutional amendment, political fundraising and the short-term thinking that characterizes too much of state decision-making.

Recent shows have poked provocative fun at some of the staples of Minnesota political debate -- transportation, education, the economy, immigration. Up next on Feb. 16: teachers and bullying, featuring Julie Blaha, president of Education Minnesota in the Anoka-Hennepin school district. Tickets are \$5; the show starts at 7 p.m.