

I have been asked about my thoughts on the current stadium issue. Some have even asked me to fix baseball. I don't know about that, but I do have an idea about their problem.

It has to do with public funding.... And after you hear my plan, you'll see that it's your choice whether or not you want to pay for a stadium.

This is a new and fresh proposal...and the money is already in place. It's just a matter of public support to allocate that money to a stadium deal. It wouldn't need your legislators' votes or a city referendum. You can decide.

I am proposing setting up a bank account through the state's gift account.

This is how it would work:

In August or September you'll be receiving your sales-tax rebate check. And if you can afford it, and you want to, you can donate the amount of your rebate, or portion of it to a stadium fund.

- Some folks said you should "spend the surplus on a stadium." Well, now you can.
- Surely with the 1.25 Billion being rebated, many will put their money where their mouth is.
- Your contribution would go into the state's gift account to be spent on a viable stadium proposal.
- The gift account will be open for your donation until July 1, 2000, the state's fiscal year end.
- If there are no workable solutions or proposals, all donations will be returned to the taxpayers who sent them in.
- We are hammering out all the details; we'll provide more information very soon.

I have to be honest though; I will not be donating my rebate. I believe pro sports needs to fix itself, but as governor I felt obligated to come forward with a new idea.