

Minnesota Legislative Overview – 2021

MAWB LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SERIES

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Relevant Resume

- ▶ Committee Administrator – House Committee on Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development (2000-2002)
- ▶ Fiscal Policy Director – Minnesota Business Partnership (2003)
- ▶ Legislative Director to the Speaker of the House (2004-2006)
- ▶ Director of Government Affairs – Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) (2007)
- ▶ Contract Lobbyist (2007-Present)
- ▶ Co-Host - Wrong About Everything Podcast
- ▶ Professor - Concordia University – St. Paul
- ▶ Stand Up Comedian



Politics Isn't Funny

Elections Have Consequences

- ▶ New Administration
 - ▶ Biden/Harris
- ▶ US House of Representatives
 - ▶ 222 Democrats
 - ▶ 211 Republicans (+12 gain)
 - ▶ Democrats gained 41 seats in 2018
 - ▶ MN Delegation (4 DFL/4 GOP) (GOP +1 MN7)
- ▶ US Senate
 - ▶ 50 Dems/50 GOP
 - ▶ Kamala Harris...COME ON DOWN!

Elections Have Consequences - MN

- ▶ MN House of Representatives
 - ▶ 70 DFL/64 GOP or....
 - ▶ 70 DFL/59 GOP/5 NEW GOP
 - ▶ +5 for GOP
 - ▶ DFL +18 in 2018
 - ▶ Speaker of the House - Melissa Hortman (DFL)
- ▶ MN Senate
 - ▶ 34 GOP/33 DFL or...
 - ▶ 34 GOP/31 DFL/2 IND or...
 - ▶ 36 GOP/31 DFL
 - ▶ Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (GOP)
- ▶ Question – How Many Split Legislatures are there in the United States?

JUST US!

- ▶ Minnesota has the distinction of being the only politically divided legislature in the Nation.
- ▶ Question - Why does this matter?

Redistricting

- ▶ Redistricting is the process of changing district boundaries.
 - ▶ All 134 House Districts
 - ▶ All 67 Senate Districts
 - ▶ All 8 MN Congressional Seats....wait....
- ▶ Minnesota is likely to lose a Congressional Seat depending on results of Census.
- ▶ House/Senate/Governor produce maps...Courts will probably decide the outcome.

Minnesota House of Representatives

- ▶ Speaker of the House – Melissa Hortman (DFL)
- ▶ House Majority Leader – Ryan Winkler (DFL)
- ▶ House Minority Leader – Kurt Daudt (GOP)
 - ▶ Relevant Committees
 - ▶ Workforce & Business Development Finance & Policy – Chair Mohamud Noor (DFL)
 - ▶ Industrial Education & Econ Dev Finance & Policy – Chair Gene Pelowski (DFL)
 - ▶ Labor, Industry, Veteran & Military Affairs - Chair Rob Ecklund (DFL)
 - ▶ Ways & Means – Chair Rena Moran (DFL)

Minnesota Senate

- ▶ Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (GOP)
- ▶ Minority Leader Susan Kent (DFL)
 - ▶ Relevant Committees
 - ▶ Jobs & Economic Growth Finance & Policy – Chair Eric Pratt (GOP)
 - ▶ Labor & Industry Policy – Chair Jason Rarick (GOP)
 - ▶ Finance – Chair Julie Rosen (GOP)

Reaching Across the Aisle?

- ▶ KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!
- ▶ COVID-19 has forced meetings and hearings to be virtual. This slows down the process, stifles debate, and limits what is “possible”
- ▶ Bills taking weeks to get into jacketed form
- ▶ Bills still require physical signatures and to be placed into “The Hopper”
 - ▶ Some/Most Legislators and Staff are working remotely
 - ▶ Process prolonged to get Bills to other Body
- ▶ This has led all Legislative Leaders to temper expectations

Legislative Deadlines

- ▶ 1st Deadline: Friday, March 12
"First deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills in the house of origin."
- ▶ 2nd Deadline: Friday, March 19
"The second deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house."
- ▶ 3rd Deadline: Friday, April 9
"The third deadline is for committees to act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills."

* Note that the deadlines do not apply to the House committees on Capital Investment, Ways and Means, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Legislative Administration, nor to the Senate committees on Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Administration.

What to Expect in 2021

- ▶ Complete MN Budget for 2022-23
 - ▶ Current MN Budget \$48.3 Billion
 - ▶ Governor Walz Proposed Budget \$52.4 Billion
 - ▶ LOTS of Tax Increases
 - ▶ DOA, but that is to be expected
 - ▶ Capital Investment Bill?
 - ▶ October '20 - \$1.87 Billion Bonding Bill
 - ▶ Omnibus, Omnibus, Omnibus
 - ▶ May Negotiations
 - ▶ Special Sessions?

2021 DFL Priorities

▶ **Economic Security - HF 1**

- ▶ Housing assistance and homelessness prevention
- ▶ Emergency cash payments to families most in need
- ▶ Food security
- ▶ Broadband expansion

▶ **Worker Protections - HF 2**

- ▶ Emergency paid sick leave for health care workers
- ▶ Workers' compensation for school employees who contract COVID-19
- ▶ Getting hospitality workers back to work
- ▶ Expanding unemployment insurance to those collecting social security

2021 DFL Priorities

- ▶ **Health Care and Human Services - HF 3**
 - ▶ Testing, vaccination, and staffing support for long-term care
 - ▶ Addressing health-related needs of those without shelter
- ▶ **Education - HF 4**
 - ▶ Wrap-around student supports
 - ▶ Investments to address learning loss and opportunity gaps
 - ▶ Funding stabilization to address temporarily decreased enrollment
- ▶ **Child Care - HF 5**
 - ▶ Childcare provider grants
 - ▶ Wait list reduction

2021 GOP Priorities

- ▶ Reopening Minnesota
- ▶ Safely Reopening Schools
- ▶ Protecting Seniors from COVID
- ▶ Supporting Small Businesses
- ▶ **Reforming Emergency Powers**
- ▶ Balance Budget without Raising Taxes

Back to Redistricting

- ▶ 2-year Senate term instead of customary 4-year term
- ▶ In 2022 all 201 MN Legislators will be on the Ballot
- ▶ Governor Walz up for reelection
- ▶ Dreaded Presidential Mid-term
- ▶ Both parties think 2022 will be their year
- ▶ Little reason to compromise
- ▶ Wait until you control the whole shebang

QUESTIONS?

