



2020 MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

The 2020 legislative session will convene Tuesday, February 11. Legislators enter the year with a number of priority issues, but with Election Day 2020 looming, partisan politics will certainly have a role to play in this session.

NOVEMBER ECONOMIC BUDGET FORECAST & SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

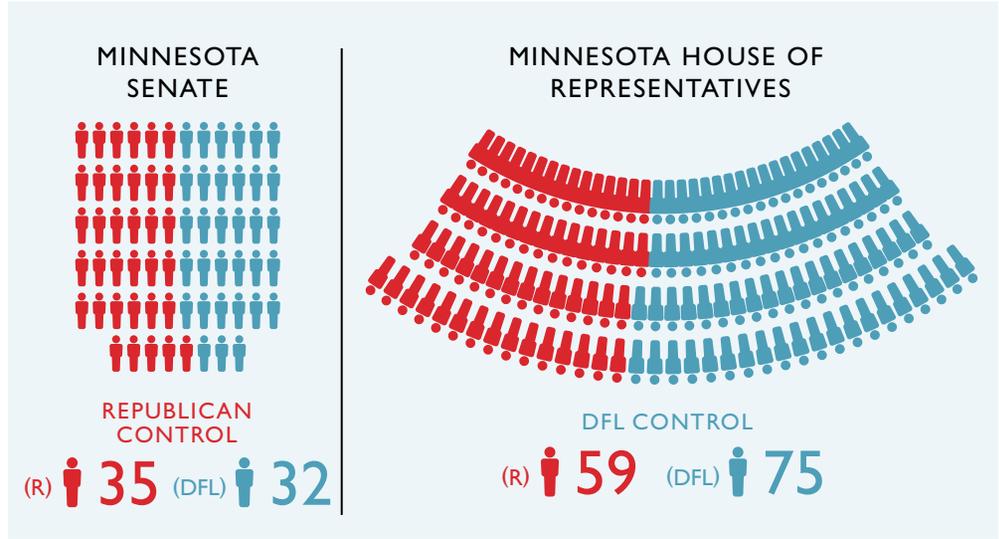
On December 5, 2020, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) released the state's November Economic Forecast. The forecast provides an estimate of the state's revenue collections and expenditures.

PROJECTED BUDGET SURPLUS
FOR REMAINING FY 2020-21
\$1.332 billion

PROJECTED REVENUE
\$48.486 billion

The forecast shows a projected surplus for FY2020 - 2021. Additionally, the forecast shows a slight surplus for the next biennium (FY2022 - 2023).

The MMB will release the final budget forecast for the 2020 legislature in February. If the forecast projects a deficit, the legislature is required by Minnesota Statute 16A.11 to pass a supplemental budget to balance the budget for the remainder of the biennium. In recent years, a supplemental budget has been passed when the forecast shows a surplus as well.



CAPITAL BUDGET

Minnesota Statute 16A.11 requires the governor to present the legislature, by January 15 of even-numbered years, a capital expenditures budget. The House and Senate use the Governor's budget as a starting point for crafting their own capital budgets.

Note: The capital budget may also be called the "bonding bill" or the "capital investment bill."

- To pass a bonding bill, three-fifths or a super majority vote is needed in each body (41 Senate votes and 81 House votes).
- In 2019, the legislature attempted to pass a \$500 million capital budget, but were only able to pass \$60 million in housing infrastructure bonds.
- In 2018, the last even-year session, the legislature passed a \$1.43 billion capital budget bill.

TOTAL AMOUNT
REQUESTED TO MMB
\$5.3 billion

LOCAL PROJECTS
\$1.3 billion

STATE PROJECTS
\$4.0 billion

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2020 POLICY ISSUES

CLEAN ENERGY PROPOSALS

Governor Walz and House DFLers have pledged to pass a clean energy bill in the next session. It is unlikely any major clean energy bills will make much headway in the Senate. Governor Walz has also announced a major new clean car initiative.

PESTICIDES

Last year, a bill restricting the use of pesticides in the state's Wildlife Management Areas was debated, but failed to pass. Another pesticide bill would have delegated pesticide regulation authority to the cities of the first class. Neither bill was passed in 2019, and House DFLers have expressed interest in pursuing these bills again this year.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

The House DFL has held over a dozen listening sessions across the state regarding marijuana legalization. There seems to be a strong interest from the house to discuss and pass legalization legislation this session.

DATA PRIVACY

Legislation was introduced in the last week of session in 2019 that would change how consumer data is collected, maintained, and used by Minnesota companies. With no time for the bill to be heard last year, the issue will be debated and worked on during the coming session.

DHS REFORM

Over the interim, Department of Human Services (DHS) suffered a series of setbacks, including improper payments, staff departures and fraud investigations. The Senate GOP has been holding hearings and pushing for answers and action – including potentially breaking

VAPE AND TOBACCO

The House DFL and Senate GOP intend to work on legislation to raise the minimum purchasing age of vape and tobacco products. The House DFL is also proposing to ban menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products.

EMERGENCY INSULIN

The House and Senate introduced emergency insulin plans during the interim. A work group created by legislative leaders has been meeting to work out the differences in the two plans. There was discussion about holding a special session to pass this legislation, but one has not yet been called.

GUN SAFETY MEASURES

Last session, the House passed two gun safety measures that ultimately were not passed into law. One bill would expand background check requirements to include private gun sales. The other bill would allow law enforcement to petition a civil court if they can prove a person is in crisis and is a danger to themselves or others. Neither bill was heard in the Senate, but the House will likely debate them both again next session.



2020 KEY DATES

- JANUARY 15** Governor Releases Capital Budget Proposal
- FEBRUARY 11** Legislature Convenes
- FEBRUARY 28** Anticipated February Economic Forecast Released
- MARCH 3** Minnesota Presidential Primary (Super Tuesday)
- MID MARCH - MID APRIL** Anticipated Committee Deadlines
- APRIL 3-13** Legislative Recess
- MAY 15-16** GOP State Convention
- MAY 18** Legislature Adjourns
- MAY 30-31** DFL State Convention
- JUNE 2** Candidate Filing Deadline
- AUGUST 11** Primary Election Day
- NOVEMBER 3** Election Day

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