



MACATFO Summer Conference Legislative Update

2019 Legislative Session

- Budget year began with a \$1.5 billion surplus
- 39 new House members
- 2 new Senators
- DFL Governor, DFL House, GOP Senate

2019 Legislative Session Conflict of Agendas

- House/Governor Priorities
 - \$.20 increase in the gas tax
 - Extend the 2% provider tax
 - Business mandates such as paid family leave and wage theft
 - Gun control
 - Tax conformity

2019 Legislative Session Conflict of Agendas

- **Senate Priorities**
 - Small amount of targeted tax relief
 - Small amount of transportation increase
 - Hold the line on taxes
 - Gun rights

2019 Legislative Environment



2019 Results

- Budget increases to \$48.3B (up \$2.3B)
- Tax bill revenue neutral
- Small new transportation investments
 - No increase in gas tax
- Provider tax continues – 1.8%
- MNLARS scrapped \$100M+ investment

MACO Platform Issues

- County Program Aid increase
 - \$24M in 2020, \$30M in 2021
- Requiring DOR to issue a deed for land sold at a tax-forfeiture
- State Deed Tax and CRV consideration - \$3,000/\$3,000 and \$1.65 minimum
- Wind and solar energy production tax penalties and interest fix

MACO Platform Issues

- Statewide appointment process for appointing row officers
- \$13 million for reimbursement to deputy registrars
- \$1 per transaction increase
- MNLARS scrapped
- Buffer tax credit

MACO Election Issues

- Access to \$6.6M in HAVA funds
- Presidential Nominating Primary reform
 - Expanded reimbursement authority
 - Only parties who hold a national convention
 - Protection of participant political preference
- \$2 million voting equipment grant

Influencing the Legislative Process

Why legislative advocacy is important

- Legislators need information. They can't possibly know everything that's going on so they rely on their constituents to keep them informed
- You can make a difference on your issues and concerns
- Linking an issue with a face
- If you don't speak up – others will and you might not like the outcome

Why don't people get involved in advocacy?

- Government can be complicated and hard to navigate.
- It can be frustrating and you don't always get what you want
- People don't believe their voice can make a difference
- People have other demands and live very busy lives
- We have a lobbyist!

How to get involved in legislative advocacy

Connect with your elected officials

1) Write e-mails or letters

- Let them know your personal thoughts and experience on the issue
- If possible, provide background information to help educate legislators on your issue
- Ask for specific action to be taken
- Be respectful and thank them

2) Invite legislators to meet you in the district, tour your program or facility

How to get involved in legislative advocacy

- 3) Meet your legislator at their Capitol Office – Meet them at the local coffee shop
- 4) Attend legislative town meetings
- 5) Sign up on social media or for legislative updates
- 6) Become involved in professional organizations - this allows your voice to be amplified as yours is combined with many other voices
- 7) Involve yourself in the electoral process

Final thoughts.....

Be patient. Change takes time and you might not succeed the first, or even second attempt.

Legislators are just like us. They work hard to get elected and want to represent their communities as best they can.

Where to Find Information

www.leg.mn

- Look up information on bills, legislators, committees
- Sign up for legislative or committee updates
- Audio and video – live and archives
- Find general information – parking, maps, directions