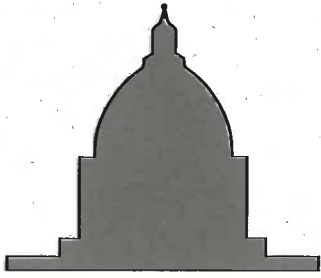


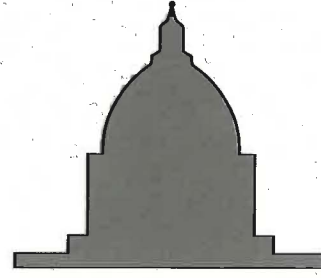
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**MINNESOTA  
STATE  
GOVERNMENT**



**Welcome**

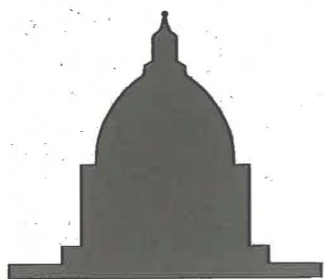


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STATE  
GOVERNMENT**



**Welcome**

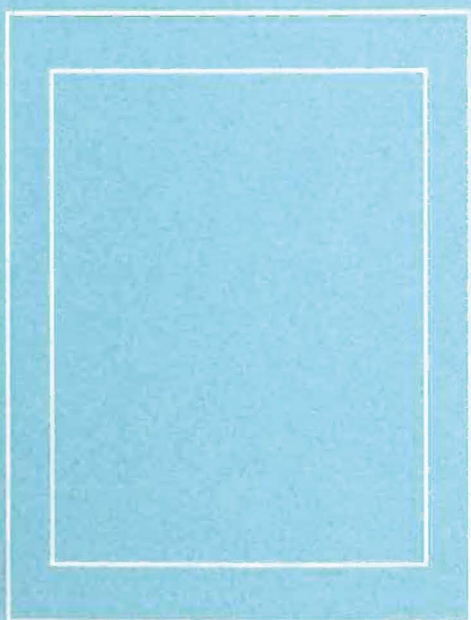




# MINNESOTA STATE GOVERNMENT



Welcome



# W

elcome to the Minnesota House of Representatives and the state of Minnesota. When it comes to opening the doors of government, Minnesota has long been a leader.

In this nine-part series, you'll find a wealth of information about the state and the legislative process. In "State Profile," the first in the series, you'll discover how Minnesota obtained its liberal reputation despite long stretches of Republican domination.

From there, find out in "State Symbols" how Minnesota's symbols, ranging from the loon to the Norway pine, came to be. In "State Counties," you'll discover the origins of all 87 Minnesota county names, including the one that actually means "where the buffalo fish come."

In "State Lawmakers," you'll find an explanation of how the state's 67 legislative districts are divided and a general profile of the 134 members of the House of Representatives. If you're interested in information about a specific bill or want tips on how to write a letter to your representative, see "State Legislative Information."

If you want to brush up on how a bill becomes law, "State Law Process" offers an easy-to-understand explanation, complete with a 11-step chart of the process and answers to frequently asked questions.

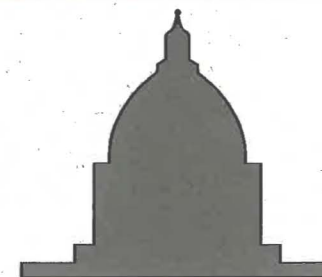
In "U.S. Congress," you'll learn about the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

The "Minnesota State Constitution" provides the history of the document and an overview of the articles.

"Minnesota State Government: The Three Branches" provides an outline of state government as a whole.

We hope this series will help you become more familiar with state government. Remember that the House of Representatives is made up of people just like you.

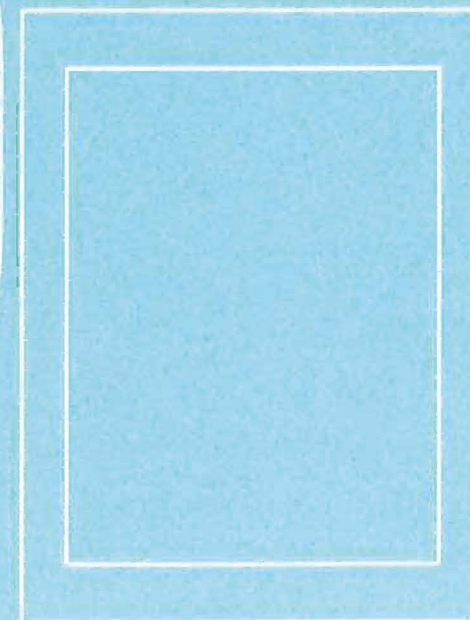
So consider these doors your own.



# MINNESOTA STATE GOVERNMENT



Welcome





# Minnesota Index

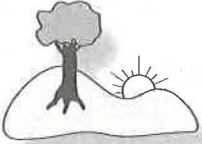


## General Profile

## National Rank

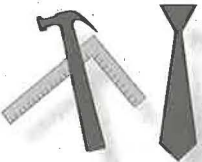
Total area of the state in square miles, 2007: 86,939 .....	12
State population, 2007: 5,197,621 .....	21
Persons per square mile, 2007: 65.3 .....	31
Percent of families in poverty, 2006: 6.5 .....	45
Percent of children in poverty, 2006: 11.8 .....	42

## Quality of Life



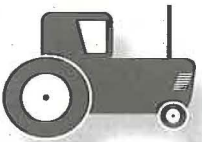
Home-ownership rate (households occupied by owner), 2006: 75.6 percent .....	5
Average value of new housing units, 2007: \$185,286 .....	12
Percent of days that are sunny: 55 .....	37
Normal daily mean temperature: 42.3 .....	48
Percent of adults that are overweight or obese, 2006: 62.7 .....	23
Infant mortality, infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005: 5.1 .....	48
Physicians per 100,000 population, 2006: 325 .....	10
Percent of population not covered by health insurance, 2006: 8.5 .....	50
Highway deaths per 100 million vehicle miles, 2006: 0.98 .....	47
Murders per 100,000 people in 2006: 2.4 .....	39

## Business & Employment



Number of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, 2006: 20 .....	9
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Unemployment percentage rate, annual average for 2007: 4.9 .....	19
Employees in all levels of government, 2007: 413,900 .....	21
New employer firms, 2006: 13,739 .....	22
Employment to population ratio in 2007: 69.1 .....	6

## Agriculture



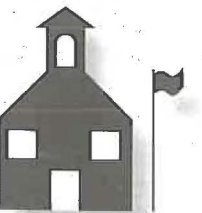
Acres of farmland, 2006: 27,400,000 .....	13
Number of farms, 2006: 79,300 .....	7
Farm income per operation, 2006: \$31,445 .....	13
Milk cows on farms, 2006: 450,000 .....	6
Hogs and pigs on farms, 2007: 7,200,000 .....	3
Number of chickens, 2006: 45,900,000 .....	17
Acres per farm, 2006: 346 .....	20

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Per capita personal annual income, 2006: \$38,751 .....	13
Median household income, 2006: \$57,363 .....	7
Bankruptcy filings by individuals, per 100,000 residents, 2007: 205 .....	31
Total state and local government expenditures per capita, 2005: \$8,515 .....	11
Per capita state government tax revenue, 2006: \$3,362 .....	6
Per capita state individual income tax revenue, 2006: \$1,331 .....	6
Tax burden as percentage of income, 2007: 33.9 .....	10

## Education



Public high school graduation rate in 2007, as percent: 90.8 .....	1
ACT average composite score, 2007: 22.5 .....	7
Percent of population with a bachelor's degree or more, 2006: 33.5 .....	7
Average pupil-teacher ratio in public K-12 schools, 2007: 16.5 to 1 .....	11
Per pupil spending for public K-12 education, 2006-07: \$10,143 .....	19
Average salary of public school teachers, 2006-07: \$49,634 .....	18

Sources: State Rankings 2008: A Statistical View of America; CQ's State Fact Finder 2007.

This document can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-296-2146 or 800-657-3550 toll-free (voice); or the Minnesota Relay service at 711 or 800-627-3529 (TTY).