



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'etoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

— The Top 25 —

Major Accomplishments of the Dayton Administration

When Governor Mark Dayton took office, he promised to build a Better Minnesota. Eight years later, Minnesota is doing better – **MUCH** better than it was before. A detailed inventory of the Dayton Administration's work to build a Better Minnesota is now available [on Governor Dayton's website](#). Below, for quick reference, is a list of 25 major achievements from the last eight years.

Education Funding	<p>In the decade before Governor Dayton took office, local school districts faced stagnant state funding and billions of dollars in State borrowing to balance Minnesota's chronic budget deficits.</p> <p>When Governor Dayton took office, he promised to increase funding for E-12 Education every year he was Governor – no excuses, no exceptions. He followed through on that promise.</p> <p>Since 2011, the Governor repaid all the funds previously borrowed from our schools and invested an additional \$2 billion in E-12 Education.</p> <p>From 2002-2010, the funding equity gap between schools grew by 49 percent – impacting the quality of education for kids, based on their zip codes. Under the Governor's leadership, we enacted reforms to reduce that disparity by 23 percent and increased per pupil funding in Greater Minnesota by \$2,562.</p>
Free All Day Kindergarten	<p>When Governor Dayton took office, just 54 percent of Minnesota kids were enrolled in all-day Kindergarten. At that point, many families were forced to pay \$2,500 to \$4,500 out-of-pocket for all-day Kindergarten programs.</p> <p>Governor Dayton followed through on his promise to provide access to free, all-day Kindergarten statewide. In its first year, 99.6 percent of school districts provided all-day K, benefitting 57,000 children in the first year alone.</p> <p>To-date, 165,000 Minnesota children have benefitted from free, all-day Kindergarten. And their families have been spared the expense of paying for all-day K out-of-pocket.</p>
Better Early Learning Opportunities	<p>Under Governor Dayton's leadership, Minnesota invested \$326 million in the state's youngest students, creating and expanding early learning programs.</p> <p>In fact, 31,600 kids have gained access to early learning programs with Early</p>

	<p>Learning Scholarships and 6,100 four-year-olds enrolled in school-based pre-k and School Readiness Plus programs during the 2017-2018 school year.</p> <p>Making these investments and providing better access to early learning has helped tens of thousands of children get better starts in school and life.</p>
Higher Education	<p>During his two terms as Governor, Mark Dayton fought to make higher education better and more affordable for Minnesota students.</p> <p>Under the Governor's leadership, the State invested an additional \$523 million in operations for the University of Minnesota and State Colleges and Universities. He also invested \$1 billion in infrastructure improvements at the U of M and Minnesota State campuses – building better labs, classrooms, and academic facilities to train Minnesota's future workforce.</p> <p>Additionally, Governor Dayton invested \$270 million in the State Grant Program – providing direct financial aid to students across the State. As a result, 376,500 students have received State Grants to make higher education more affordable. All State Grant recipients have seen increases in their State Grants, averaging \$915. These grants have helped students build better futures for themselves and their families, by making two-year schools, four-year schools, and technical school training programs more affordable.</p> <p>Under Governor Dayton's leadership, median student debt for Minnesotans graduating with a bachelor's degree has dropped 5.4 percent, reversing years of increases. Despite this progress, median student loan debt is still nearly \$26,000, which places a heavy burden on recent graduates, while pricing other would-be students out of higher education.</p>
Economic Growth	<p>When Governor Dayton took office, the State's unemployment rate was 6.9 percent and 204,000 Minnesotans were out of work. Eight years later:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota's unemployment rate is 2.8 percent (a 19-year low) • Unemployment has been at or below 4 percent for 53 months • Minnesota employers have added 316,700 new jobs since 2011 • Minnesota reached 2.98 million jobs in October 2018 – the most in State history • Minnesota was ranked America's #1 State for Business in 2015
Fiscal Stability	<p>When Governor Dayton took office, Minnesota was facing a \$6.2 billion deficit, the State owed local school districts \$1.8 billion, and there was almost nothing in the Budget Reserve.</p> <p>Eight years later, Minnesota has seen repeated surpluses thanks to sound fiscal management and an improved economy. Ten out of the last eleven budget forecasts have projected surpluses, and Minnesota now has a \$1.5 billion budget surplus.</p> <p>By 2013, Governor Dayton repaid all the debt owed to Minnesota schools. And since then, the State has set aside an unprecedented \$2.5 billion in cash and Budget Reserves to protect Minnesota's finances from future economic downturns.</p>

AAA Bond Ratings	<p>Chronic deficits and poor fiscal management in the decade before the Dayton Administration had eroded the state's credit ratings – making it more expensive to make infrastructure improvements statewide.</p> <p>Thanks to Governor Dayton's strong fiscal management, Minnesota has regained its AAA bond ratings from Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's – restoring our State's fiscal excellence and top-notch borrowing rates.</p>
Diversity and Inclusion	<p>Under Governor Dayton's leadership, the State has made diversity and inclusion a top priority – doing more to ensure our State's government better reflects and includes the rich diversity of Minnesota. The following is a brief summary of the Dayton Administration's primary achievements in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring the first Chief Inclusion Officer in the America to drive better diversity and inclusion initiatives Administration-wide • Establishing the Diversity and Inclusion Council to improve the recruiting and retention of state employees from diverse backgrounds, improve the contracting process for businesses owned by people from diverse backgrounds, and promote civic engagement with the State of Minnesota • Increasing the percentage of state employees who are people of color, from just 8.1 percent (2011) to 13.1 percent (2018); last year, 19 percent of new hires were people of color • Increasing the percentage of state employees who are people with disabilities from 4.6 percent (2011) to 7.2 percent (2018) • Increasing the racial diversity of Minnesota's judges by 104 percent through Governor Dayton's judicial appointments • Increasing the percentage of female judges by 47 percent through Governor Dayton's judicial appointments • Increasing the racial diversity of state Boards and Commissions by 98 percent through the Governor's appointments • Increasing State contracts with minority-owned businesses by 64 percent, including a 1,715 percent increase in State contracts with African American businesses and a 1,455 percent increase in State contracts with Indigenous businesses • Establishing the Young Women's Initiative to involve and engage young women in the work of building a better state • Hosting a first-of-its-kind Tribal Youth Gathering for young Native American leaders in 2018, designed to empower Native American Youth to be effective advocates for themselves and their communities • More
Tax Fairness	<p>When Governor Dayton took office, he promised to raise taxes 2 percent on the wealthiest 2 percent of Minnesotans, and then invest those revenues in a Better Minnesota. The Governor delivered on that promise in 2013.</p> <p>While raising taxes on the rich, Governor Dayton cut taxes for middle- and lower-income Minnesotans. During his tenure, 98 percent of Minnesotans have seen no increase in their income tax rates. In fact, other than the wealthiest 2 percent of Minnesotans, the state's personal income tax rates for 98 percent of Minnesotans have remained exactly the same for 18 years.</p>

	<p>Since 2013, Governor Dayton has signed into law \$1.5 billion in tax cuts benefiting over 2.3 million hard working Minnesota families and farmers.</p>
<p>Regional Infrastructure Improvements</p>	<p>Governor Dayton has signed five bonding bills into law totaling \$3.5 billion. According to an economic model used by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, those bills have helped create an estimated 53,500 jobs. Among hundreds of projects included in bonding bills signed by the Governor were these infrastructure improvements of significant regional importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the Mankato Civic Center • Expansion of the Rochester Mayo Civic Center • Expansion of the Hormel Institute in Austin • Expansion of the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud • A new Southwest Regional Sports Center in Marshall • Highway 53 Utilities Relocation in Virginia • CHS Field (Saints Stadium) in Saint Paul • Minneapolis Veterans Home Improvements • Improving the Minnesota Security Hospital in Saint Peter • Nicollet Mall Reconstruction in Minneapolis • Completion of the Lewis & Clark Water Project • Winona State University Education Village • Railroad Crossing Improvements in Moorhead • Restoration of the NorShor Theatre in Duluth • More
<p>Marriage Equality</p>	<p>In his 2013 State of the State Address, Governor Dayton urged the Minnesota Legislature to legalize same-sex marriage, saying:</p> <p><i>“Last year, Minnesotans began a conversation about why marriage matters and we found our common belief that it is about love, commitment, and responsibility. I want Minnesota to be a state which affirms that freedom for one means freedom for everyone, and where no one is told it is illegal to marry the person you love.”</i></p> <p>In May 2013, Governor Dayton signed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage into law, making Minnesota the first Midwest state (and the 12th state in the nation) to make marriage equality the law of the land by Legislative action.</p>
<p>US Bank Stadium</p>	<p>In 2012, Governor Dayton signed legislation investing \$348 million in the construction of a new stadium for the Minnesota Vikings, US Bank Stadium.</p> <p>This project created 8,000 jobs, leveraged \$750 million in additional local and private investment, and spurred \$1 billion in additional economic activity and development in downtown Minneapolis. Ninety percent of the companies that participated in the construction process were Minnesota businesses, approximately 36 percent of workers were people of color, and 9 percent of workers were women — exceeding the project's diversity hiring goals.</p> <p>The construction of US Bank Stadium has brought Minnesota the Super Bowl, the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four, the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four, the X Games, and numerous national events that have produced hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits for Minnesota.</p>

Clean Water	<p>During his tenure, Governor Dayton recommitted the State of Minnesota to improving access to clean, affordable, reliable water for all Minnesotans. From hosting dozens of public meetings and summits across the State, to implementing new clean water policies, to investing in better clean water infrastructure, under the Governor's leadership the State has made important improvements to the ways we manage, treat, deliver, and protect our waters. The following are some examples of those improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging over 5,000 Minnesotans in water summits and town hall meetings to create solutions for clean water statewide • Investing \$1.65 billion in 485 projects to rebuild waste and drinking water infrastructure statewide, including treatment plants, collection and distribution systems, and storage • Enrolling 434,089 acres of land on 676 farms in the voluntary Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program, keeping over 48 million pounds of sediment out of Minnesota's rivers • Establishing a Water Quality Buffer Initiative, including an estimated 110,000 acres for water quality conservation efforts • Requiring lead testing in school drinking water supplies • Developing or enhancing drinking water source protection plans for nearly 600 public water systems that serve over 90 percent of Minnesotans who receive public drinking water • Securing \$350 million in federal funds as direct payments to landowners through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to protect 60,000 acres of cropland and wellhead areas with buffers and wetlands • Designing the Groundwater Protection Rule to reduce and prevent nitrate contamination in our groundwater to protect our drinking water supplies; the Rule was informed by input of 1,500 farmers, landowners, and other members of the public who attended meetings and more than 2,000 written comments • More
Destination Medical Center	<p>In 2013, Governor Dayton signed legislation authorizing the Destination Medical Center initiative – a multi-billion dollar public-private partnership to make Rochester “America’s City for Health.”</p> <p>Over 20-years, DMC will create an estimated 35,000 jobs and generate \$7.5 billion in tax revenues. The private investment by Mayo Clinic and other private entities is projected at more than \$5 billion. As part of this historic partnership, the State of Minnesota, Olmsted County, and the City of Rochester will invest \$585 million to build public infrastructure that will help support the growth of the regional economy.</p> <p>As of 2018, there are 23 projects at various stages of development in the DMC district. New DMC developments approved in 2018 alone totaled \$342 million. From 2013 to 2017, DMC attracted nearly \$428 million in private investment. Since 2014, approximately 3,300 new jobs, 1,100 new apartment units, and nearly 600 new hotel rooms have been added in Rochester.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Under Governor Dayton's leadership, the State Capitol was restored and renovated. The \$309 million Capitol restoration was a comprehensive project</p>

State Capitol Restoration	<p>covering virtually every inch of the 113-year old structure, from reinforcing subterranean footings to the newly-gilded finial on top of the Capitol's dome. Over 26,000 pieces of marble were repaired, 242 historic windows were replaced, 57 murals were restored and thousands of other repairs were made to ensure our Capitol will endure for the next 100 years.</p> <p>The Capitol restoration project was delivered on-time and under-budget. It supported roughly 3,000 jobs. The project met workforce and subcontracting diversity goals, with nearly 30 percent of workers on the project being people of color and 12.5 women. With the repurposing of the space inside the Capitol, areas dedicated to public use have doubled to approximately 40,000 square feet – allowing more Minnesotans to access more of their State Capitol and meaningfully engage in their democracy.</p>
Broadband Expansion	<p>When Governor Dayton took office in 2011, just 57 percent of Minnesotans had access to high-speed internet. Thanks to the Governor's leadership, investments in broadband infrastructure, and collaborative partnerships across the State, 91 percent of Minnesotans now have access to the high-speed internet connections they need to succeed in a 21st Century economy.</p> <p>In fact, the Governor invested \$85.6 million to expand broadband access in communities across Minnesota. Those efforts have helped connect 33,852 households, 5,189 businesses, and 300 community institutions to high-speed internet – leveraging \$110.6 million in private and local matching funds.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we could have done much more to connect even more Minnesotans to high-speed internet. In total, Governor Dayton proposed \$241 million since 2011 for rural broadband infrastructure. That funding would have expanded high-speed internet access to a total of 67,989 households, 10,234 businesses, and 787 community institutions. But Republicans in the Legislature would only agree to \$85.6 million – limiting the number of communities, families, and businesses with access to high-speed broadband internet connections.</p>
Public Employee Benefits and Reforms	<p>Throughout his two terms in office, Governor Dayton has been an advocate for and partner with all 34,000 state government employees. The Governor has fought hard to make public service with the State of Minnesota a better, safer, and more rewarding career. The following benefits and reforms were enacted for the benefit of state employees and the Minnesotans they serve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making six weeks of paid parental leave available for all state employees, saving families an average of \$6,200 in wages at a time when many parents need it most • Public pension reforms that secured the hard-earned benefits of 511,000 public employees and their families and stabilized the State of Minnesota's finances for decades to come • Implementation of a MnSAFE program to reduce work related injuries and illnesses that resulted in reducing state employee injuries by 29 percent, or 3,000 fewer injuries since 2011 • Establishing new sexual harassment prevention standards and procedures to ensure the State of Minnesota is a safer, more respectful place to work for all employees

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing efficient and effective training and development for all employees to support recruitment and retention, and overall safe and inclusive workplaces. • More
Better Transit Infrastructure	<p>Thanks to investments in mass transit under Governor Dayton's leadership, Metro Transit has enjoyed the longest period of sustained ridership growth in a generation, with ridership at its highest point in 30 years. Since 2011, the Governor has made significant progress on building out a regional transit system that will include LRT and bus rapid transit development.</p> <p>In June 2014, the <u>METRO Green Line LRT</u> opened for passenger service after 30 years of planning. The project created more than 5,500 construction jobs, with a payroll of \$250 million for workers from more than 60 Minnesota counties. The Green Line now has daily weekday ridership of nearly 40,000.</p> <p>The <u>Southwest Light Rail Transit project</u> – the largest public infrastructure project in the State's history – is preparing to enter construction after receiving critical federal approval in November 2018. Heavy construction is slated to begin in 2019 and will create 7,500 jobs.</p> <p>The <u>Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit</u> began construction and obtained a critical federal grant of \$74 million in November 2018.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Council also continues to make progress on its regional arterial rapid bus plan, which brings faster, more frequent service and enhanced stations to some of the region's busiest and most-traveled corridors. The Council opened <u>the A-line</u> in 2016, the first of a dozen planned rapid bus lines and began construction on the <u>C-line</u>.</p> <p>Since 2011, Metro Transit has provided more than 600 million rides on commuter rail, light rail and bus. In addition to improving access to jobs and destinations, transit helps air quality, and reduces commuting times. These investments have generated at least \$8.4 billion in economic development.</p>
Transportation Improvements	<p>Even though Republicans in the Minnesota Legislature refused to provide the necessary, ongoing revenues to meet the State's urgent transportation infrastructure needs, the Dayton Administration has made important progress to improve transportation infrastructure with upgrades and safety improvements to crucial corridors that are essential for economic success. The following are some major transportation improvement improvements that have been achieved under Governor Dayton's leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing \$1.1 billion in the Corridors of Commerce program to support statewide economic growth by strategically expanding the capacity of Minnesota's transportation systems, including (but not limited to) projects like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety improvements and expansion of Highway 14 ○ Completion of Highway 610 to Maple Grove ○ Significant improvements to Interstate 94 ○ Significant improvements to Interstate 35W ○ Significant improvements to Highway 23 ○ More

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing \$128 million in 109 local road construction projects across the State of Minnesota through the Local Road Improvement Program • Investing \$119 million in the Local Bridge Replacement Program, replacing more than 400 bridges since 2011 • Investing \$80 million in 27 Transportation Economic Development projects that have supported the creation of more than 16,700 jobs statewide • Implementing reforms at the Minnesota Department of Transportation that saved \$217 million • Completing other major transportation projects, including (but not limited to) these major infrastructure improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St. Croix Crossing at Highway 36 ○ Highway 53 Bridge Relocation in Virginia ○ Reconstruction of the Highway 61 Bridge in Hastings ○ Restoration and Reconstruction of the Winona Bridge ○ Reconstruction of Interstate 90 Bridge in LaCrescent ○ Reconstruction of Smith Ave. Bridge at Highway 149 ○ More
Managed Care Reforms	<p>Before Governor Dayton took office, the State of Minnesota was not getting the best value for its Medicaid program provided through health plans. In 2011, Governor Dayton and the Department of Human Services began requiring health plans to compete to provide health care coverage for enrollees in Medicaid and MinnesotaCare. By requiring competitive bidding and introducing other reforms to purchasing, Governor Dayton has saved Minnesota taxpayers \$1.5 billion.</p> <p>Building on those reforms, in 2013 Minnesota launched its Integrated Health Partnership program, providing more coordinated care and paying health providers based on the quality of care they provide to their patients. This program has encouraged providers to be innovative in how they deliver health care and allows them to focus on the quality of care versus the amount of care they provide. The program now serves 465,000 Minnesota with 24 provider groups involved. It has saved a total of \$277 million since 2013.</p>
The Lewis & Clark Water Project	<p>Authorized by Congress in 2003, the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System was designed to connect 300,000 people in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota to reliable, affordable water. The failure of the federal government to provide sufficient funding to cover the federal share of the project slowed construction, leaving Minnesotans disconnected from the project.</p> <p>Under Governor Dayton's leadership, the State of Minnesota stepped up to provide the \$44.5 million in funding needed for the federal share of the project. Thanks to Governor Dayton, construction got underway to connect all remaining Minnesota communities to the project. The project is scheduled to conclude in December 2018. Connecting these communities to affordable, reliable water resources is critical to protecting quality of life for area residents and attracting and retaining economic development.</p>
Achieving Minnesota's Renewable	<p>In 2018, Minnesota achieved its 25 percent Renewable Energy Standard seven years early. Minnesota's growing renewable energy industry now supports over 59,000 clean energy jobs; solar energy jobs alone grew by 48</p>

Energy Standard	<p>percent in Minnesota between 2016 and 2017. And Minnesota’s clean energy jobs grew at a rate of 2.6 percent in 2017 – twice as fast as overall job growth. Leading by example, the Minnesota State Capitol Complex is now getting over one-third of its energy from renewable sources.</p> <p>For each of the last two years, Governor Dayton has advocated for increasing Minnesota’s Renewable Energy Standard to 50 percent by 2030. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Minnesota Legislature blocked that proposal from becoming law. But a 2018 report shows that Minnesota could get 70 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2050, “as the prices for wind, solar, and battery storage continue to fall.”</p>
Progress on the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion Project	<p>In 2017, Governor Mark Dayton and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum established a Task Force to develop design principles and concept-level engineering solutions to achieve balanced flood risk management for the Fargo-Moorhead region, including upstream, downstream, and metro-area communities and properties. Governor Dayton’s overall goal in this collaborative effort was an approach to flood risk reduction that would meet Minnesota’s strong environmental protection standards, reduce risks where possible, and maintain the opportunity for economic growth in the region.</p> <p>After months of collaborative work with communities impacted by the proposed flood mitigation project, the Task Force released a final report to the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority. The report provided a roadmap for compromise, identifying key modifications that could provide a path forward. The Diversion Authority revised its project proposal based on the Task Force’s work. That project is contingent upon regulatory approvals from both states, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p>In November 2018, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) for the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management project. The DNR is currently considering public comments on the Final SEIS and reviewing the Diversion Authority’s permit application. This impartial review is crucial, as the two states work toward a resolution that will fairly and effectively mitigate flood risks for communities on both sides of the Red River Valley.</p>
Making State Government Work Better in Over 1,200 Ways During the Unsession	<p>During the 2014 Unsession, Governor Dayton successfully enacted nearly 1,200 ways to make state government work better. These reforms – both large and small – helped make state government work better, faster, and smarter for the Minnesota people and businesses it serves.</p> <p>From making taxes simpler, to streamlining the permitting process for businesses, to eliminating outdated laws, the Dayton Administration delivered on its promise to make meaningful reforms that will improve the lives of Minnesotans. The Unsession delivered these achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Plain Language initiative, ordering all state agencies to use commonly-used, concise, and easy-to-understand language when communicating with the people of Minnesota • Reducing the time it takes for regulatory agencies to issue job creating business permits to 90 days for most projects • Eliminating over 1,100 obsolete, redundant, and incomprehensible state laws that were no longer necessary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More
PolyMet Permit to Mine	<p>After careful review of the project, its environmental impacts and financial assurances, and more than 80,000 public comments, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued permits for Poly Met Mining, Inc.'s (PolyMet's) proposed NorthMet mining project in northeast Minnesota. This was a major milestone for a project that has been rigorously studied and refined for more than a decade, consistent with Minnesota's strong environmental protection standards.</p> <p>In November 2018, the Minnesota DNR issued a permit to mine, two dam safety permits, six water appropriation permits, a public waters work permit, and an endangered species takings permit for the NorthMet project. As part of the permit to mine, DNR secured an unprecedented financial assurance package to protect the area's natural resources for the long-term and ensure Minnesota's taxpayers are not responsible for reclamation and water treatment costs. The issuance of these permits concluded the DNR's consideration of the major permits that the project needs from the DNR in order to proceed.</p> <p>In order to proceed, the NorthMet project still requires water and air quality permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and a wetlands permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, in addition to other local permits and approvals. These permits and approvals are currently under review.</p>

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