

2021 Capitol News Coverage Directory



MINNESOTA SENATE

Minnesota Senate
Capitol News Coverage
Directory 2021

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Senate Rule 16

CREDENTIALS FOR NEWS COVERAGE

16. Credentials for News Coverage

16.1 (a) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide a reasonable number of spaces on the Senate floor and in the Senate gallery for individuals and organizations with credentials and passes issued under this rule.

(b) The Sergeant at Arms may not issue credentials or day passes under this rule to political organizations or to individuals affiliated with a political organization. For the purposes of this rule, "political organization" means an organization owned or controlled by a registered lobbyist, a political caucus, a political party, or any party organization and "individuals affiliated with a political organization" means an individual who, during the preceding 24 months, has been employed by or received any compensation from a political organization.

(c) Due to the limited space available for organizations or individuals providing news coverage of the Senate, the Senate finds that there is a compelling public interest in limiting credentials issued under this rule to organizations or individuals who demonstrate that they provide regular news coverage of the legislature. For session credentials, an organization or individual must submit an application to the Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms must review the application and approve or reject it within 14 days after receipt. Upon the request of the Sergeant at Arms, an applicant for credentials must provide evidence of the applicant's activities in providing regular news coverage of the legislature. Evidence of regular news coverage must include examples of news coverage of legislative matters produced by the applicant. The examples must include written, video, or audio coverage written or recorded in the past year, and a description of how they were publicly distributed. Any opinion expressed in the examples is not subject to review under this rule at any time.

(d) If an application is rejected, the Sergeant at Arms must state the reason for the rejection in writing and notify the applicant, the Secretary of the Senate, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader in writing.

(e) An appeal of a denial of credentials must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall review and decide the appeal within 14 days after receiving a letter of appeal.

16.2 The Sergeant at Arms may grant a day pass for access authorized under Rule 16.1, paragraph (a) The day pass may be issued for a single day to an individual or organization who has not applied for credentials and who is not prohibited from receiving credentials under Rule 16.1, paragraph (b). The pass may be granted upon the request of a member or the organization or individual, and may be renewed from day to day upon request.

16.3 The Secretary shall compile and distribute to the public a directory of individuals and organizations who have been issued credentials under Rule 16.1 to provide news coverage from the Senate floor. The directory must include each individual's picture and organization and a brief biography.

16.4 The Secretary must issue each individual or organization with credentials an identification badge showing the individual's name and organization. The individual must wear the badge when in the Senate Chamber.

16.5 (a) A credential shall be revoked by the Sergeant at Arms if the Sergeant has received credible information indicating that the individual or organization either was not qualified to receive the credential when it was given, or no longer qualifies for a credential.

(b) An appeal of a revocation of credentials must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall review and decide the appeal within 14 days after receiving a letter of appeal.

adopted January 06,2015

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Steve Karnowski

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821

Newsroom: 612-332-2727

Cell: 612-442-7649

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Education: BA from the University of Minnesota in journalism and political science, 1982.

Experience: Associated Press reporter since 1994; Conus Communications All News Channel, associate producer, 1994; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany, senior news editor, 1985 - 1994; United Press International in Washington, national desk editor, 1985, Minneapolis Bureau reporter, 1983 - 1985; Minnesota Daily, political reporter, 1979 - 1983.



Jim Arthur Mone

Associated Press

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Education: B.S., journalism, Nebraska Omaha

Experience: 47 years as AP photographer.



Torey Van Oot

Axios

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Education: BA, political science and print journalism, University of Southern California.

Experience: Axios Twin Cities (2020 - present); Star Tribune Capitol Bureau (2018 - 2020); Refinery29 (2015 - 2018); NBC-owned TV stations national digital desk (2013 - 2015); The Sacramento Bee Capitol Bureau (2009 - 2013).



Dana Ferguson

Forum News Service

Capitol: 651-290-0707

Cell: 952-215-4046

E-mail: dferguson@forumcomm.com

Education: DePauw University, BA, 2014.

Experience: Joined Forum News Service as Minnesota Capitol correspondent in 2018. Previously worked as a state government and politics reporter for the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D., and The Associated Press in Madison, Wis.



Sarah Mearhoff

Forum News Service

Cell: 610-790-4992

E-mail: smearhoff@forumcomm.com

Education: BA, journalism, Pennsylvania State University

Experience: Political reporter in Minnesota for Forum News Service. Previous Capitol coverage in Pennsylvania, Mississippi and South Dakota.



❖ [Minnesota Senate 2021 Capitol News Coverage Directory](#)**Thomas A. Olmscheid**

Freelance Photographer

Cell: 651-208-4885
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Education: AA degree, Inver Hills Community College.
Experience: MN House of Representatives, chief photographer, 1975 - 2011; Associated Press, freelance photographer, 1978 - 2018; freelance photographer, 2011 - 2018.

John Croman

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988
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Education: BS, journalism, University of Kansas.
Experience: Reporter for KARE since 1997. Previously worked in TV news in Phoenix, Omaha and Lawrence, Kan.; and radio news in Kansas.

Theo Keith

KMSPTV 9

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Education: Bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science, University of Missouri.
Experience: WITI-TV/Fox 6, Milwaukee, Wis., political reporter (2015-2018); WAVE-TV (NBC), Louisville, Ky., political reporter (2013-2015); WISC-TV (CBS), Madison, Wis., reporter (2011-2013); KMOX-AM (CBS) and KOMU-TV (NBC), Jefferson City, Mo. (2009-2011).

Tom Hauser

KSTP-TV 5

Capitol: 651-665-0920
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 E-mail: thauser@kstp.com



Education: BA, Journalism and Political Science, University of St. Thomas; MA, Journalism and Mass Communications, Drake University.
Experience: KAAL-TV, Austin, MN; WINK-TV, Fort Myers, FL; WHO-TV, Des Moines; KSTP-TV, Mpls-St. Paul.

Dan Ochsner

Leighton Broadcasting AM 1450/FM 99.3 KNSI - St. Cloud, MN

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 Newsroom: 320-203-4831
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Education: Associates Degree Radio/TV Broadcasting; Bachelor's Degree Media Business.
Experience: 20+ years in radio news and talk radio; KDLM news director, 1998-2001; MN Associated Press Broadcasters Board, past president; Political talk show host, KNSI St. Cloud, 2001-present.

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Kevin Featherly

Minnesota Lawyer/Politics in Minnesota

Newsroom: 651-222-1837

E-mail: kfeatherly@minnlawyer.com



Education: BA, Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Experience: Most recently 12 years of freelance writing for dozens of local and national publications; held previous positions as reporter and editor with Washington Post Newsweek Interactive, McGraw-Hill, Landmark Communications, North Country Community Newspapers and Internet Broadcasting System.

Scott Peterson

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355

Newsroom: 952-545-6660

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Education: BS - UW - Riverfalls, WI Associates - Radio Broadcast - Brown

Experience: Anchor, reporter, producer, Minnesota News Network; KYMN - Radio; Clear Channel - KTCN 1130



Bill Werner

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355

Newsroom: 952-545-6660

E-mail: bwerner@mnnradio.com

Education: BA, Political Science, Macalester College.

Experience: Political correspondent, Minnesota News Network since 1993.



Brian Bakst

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035

Newsroom: 651-290-1424

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E-mail: bbakst@mpr.org

Education: BA, Political Science/Journalism, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Copy editor, Albuquerque Journal; legislative correspondent, Murphy McGinnis Media; legislative reporter, Associated Press, 1999 - 2016.



David Montgomery

Minnesota Public Radio

Newsroom: 651-290-1033

E-mail: dmontgomery@mpr.org

Education: BA in political science, Grinnell College.

Experience: MPR News, 2020-present; CityLab, 2018-2019; St. Paul Pioneer Press, 2014-2017; Sioux Falls Argus Leader, 2012-2014; Rapid City Journal, 2010-2012; Pierre Capital Journal, 2008-2010.



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Tim Nelson

Minnesota Public Radio

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Education: BA, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Experience: Minnesota Daily, St. Paul Pioneer Press.



Tim Pugmire

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035

Newsroom: 651-290-1424

Cell: 651-261-3287

E-mail: tpugmire@mpr.org

Education: BS, St. Cloud State University.

Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.



Ricardo Lopez

Minnesota Reformer

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Education: BA, journalism and Spanish, University of Nevada, Reno.

Experience: Previously at The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, Calif.), Variety (Los Angeles), Star Tribune, Los Angeles Times.



Max Nesterak

Minnesota Reformer

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Education: BA, Swarthmore College.

Experience: MPR News, NPR.



Deena Winter

Minnesota Reformer

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Newsroom: 202-491-7755

E-mail: winterdeena@gmail.com

Education: University of Mary (Bismarck, N.D.)

Experience: Bismarck Tribune, Associated Press, Lincoln Journal Star, Denver Post, Nebraska Watchdog, Southwest News Media, Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal, New York Times, Wall Street Journal.



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Peter J. Callaghan

MinnPost

Newsroom: 612-455-6950

Cell: 253-219-6332

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Education: BA, University of Washington

Experience: MinnPost; Associated Press in Olympia and Seattle; Everett Herald; Tacoma News Tribune.



Walker Orenstein

MinnPost

Cell: 651-276-7490

E-mail: worenstein@minnpost.com

Education: BA, University of Washington.

Experience: Reported on Washington State's Legislature for The (Tacoma) News Tribune and The Associated Press. Interned for The Seattle Times.



Martin D. Owings

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Education: BA, history and political science, Metropolitan State University; MA, organizational leadership, Saint Catherine University.

Experience: Reporter/editor/online host; Board President at Public Record Media.



John Eric Autey

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Newsroom: 651-338-5497

Cell: 651-328-1753

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Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer: 20 years with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, 15 years in the newsroom.



Mara Gottfried

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5262

Cell: 651-503-0163

E-mail: mgottfried@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, University of Maryland.

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press, 2001 - present.



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Christopher Magan

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Education: B.S. Journalism from Tennessee State University
Experience: Education reporter for Pioneer Press, 2011 - present; education/government reporter for Dayton Daily News, 2004-2011

Dave Orrick

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Cell: 651-283-5489
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Education: Northwestern University.
Experience: Twenty-plus years' experience; 14 years' experience with St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Education: BA, history, University of MN, Morris.
Experience: Reporter, Fairmont Sentinel, 1971-72; reporter, Rochester Post-Bulletin, 1972-77; reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1977-present.

C. Scott Takushi

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5497
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Education: BA, Wheaton College.
Experience: Seattle Times, 1985-1987; St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer since 1987.

Briana Bierschbach

Star Tribune

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Education: BA, journalism, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Experience: Star Tribune since 2020. Previous experience at the Capitol for The Associated Press, Politics in Minnesota, MinnPost and Minnesota Public Radio.

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Patrick Condon

Star Tribune

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Education: University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

Experience: Star Tribune, 2014-present; Associated Press, 2003-2014; The Olympian (Olympia, Wash), 2000-2003; The Forum (Fargo, N.D.), 1996-1999.



Patricia Ava Lopez

Star Tribune

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Education: California State University, Los Angeles.

Experience: Editorial writer, Star Tribune; former state and national political editor, Star Tribune; former chief political reporter, Star Tribune; Previously reporter for Cincinnati Enquirer, Los Angeles Times, Roanoke Times, Los Angeles City News Service.



Stephen Montemayor

Star Tribune

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E-mail: smontemayor@startribune.com

Education: BA, journalism, University of Kansas.

Experience: Star Tribune (2015 - present). Previously: Twin Cities Business; Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.



Leila Navidi

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 612-673-4840

Cell: 612-710-1293

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Education: Rochester Institute of Technology, B.A. Applied Photography, 2003

Experience: Star Tribune since Sept. 2014; Las Vegas Sun, 2007-2013



Glen Stubbe

Star Tribune

Capitol: 612-210-8603

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E-mail: glen.stubbe@startribune.com

Education: BS Photojournalism, Syracuse University.

Experience: Wilkes-Barre, PA, Times Leader, 1981-83; Tampa Tribune, FL, 1983-86; Washington Times, DC, 1986-98, Star Tribune, 1998 - present.



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Lori Sturdevant

Star Tribune

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Education: BA, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; graduate work, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Star Tribune reporter, 1976-1986; assignment editor 1986-1992; editorial writer and columnist, 1992-2018. Retired from the Editorial Board in December 2018 and continues as an occasional columnist. Author and/or editor of 12 books, including "Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement" and "The Pillsburys of Minnesota."

Richard Tsong-Taatarii

Star Tribune

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Education: B.A. U.C. Berkeley '92
Experience: 12 years Star Tribune staff photographer

Jessie Van Berkel

Star Tribune

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Education: BA, journalism, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Star Tribune (2014-present). Previously: Sarasota Herald-Tribune and the Post-Crescent.

Michael McIntee

The Uptake

Capitol: 651-261-2272
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Education: BA, journalism, University of MN.
Experience: WMMR-AM news director, 1977-81; WCCO-TV producer, 1979-1982; KGBT-TV producer, 1982-84; KETV-TV producer 1984-87; KWTW TV producer, 1987-88; Conus Communication 1989-2002; cofounder and executive producer, The UpTake, 2006-present.

Sheila Regan

The Uptake

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Education: BA, Macalester College; MFA, Indiana University.
Experience: Twelve years' experience as a freelance journalist. Bylines in the Washington Post, Star Tribune, Salon, Mic, PRI, Vice; stringer for The Associated Press.

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Education: BA, political science, St. Catherine University, 2012; MA, humanities, Prescott College, 2015; Ph.D., sustainability education, Prescott College, 2019.

Experience: Freelance reporting during the last several years on local politics and community mobilization efforts. Previous work as a reporter at the Minnesota State Capitol, reporting on both state and local elections, as well as legislative politics for independent, nonprofit organizations.

Mary Lahammer

Twin Cities PBS

Capitol: 651-402-8848
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Education: University of Minnesota; major: Journalism and Mass Communications; honors: Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Experience: Host, Almanac at the Capitol; reporter, Almanac; anchor/reporter, WQOW-TV, Eau Claire, Wis.; anchor/reporter, KUMV-TV, Williston, N.D.; winner of several Emmys and other awards for hosting, reporting, producing, and photography.

Scott Trotman

Twin Cities PBS

Capitol: 612-867-8358
Newsroom: 651-222-1717
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Education: BA, Winona State University; major, Mass Communications, Broadcasting; minor, Speech Communications.

Experience: Over 20 years of video production experience; 16 years with TPT. Worked four sessions with Senate Media in 1990's.

Caroline Cummings

WCCO-TV 4

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Education: BA, broadcast journalism, University of Maryland, College Park (2017).

Experience: Iowa statehouse reporter, KGAN-TV, June 2017-December 2020; reporter, WCCO-TV, January 2021-present.

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