



# MINNESOTA YOUTH COUNCIL

*An initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

## **Minnesota Youth Council Committee 2024-25 Annual Legislative Report**

of the 94th Legislature of the State of Minnesota

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### Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Youth Representatives, Congressional District Committees, and Subcommittees
3. Policy Priorities
4. Testimony Provided on Bills
5. 2024-25 MYCC Highlights
6. Media Features

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### **Introduction**

The Minnesota Youth Council Committee (MYCC), or Minnesota Youth Council (MYC), envisions a state that prioritizes the agency and voice of young people from all backgrounds. Established by Minnesota State Statute in 2013, the MYCC holds the formal responsibility of advising on youth-policy in the legislature, state departments, and community action organizations. Along with their adult partners and Minnesota Alliance With Youth staff, the 36 members of the MYC are change agents in their communities and across the state, leading the way with youth-centered initiatives. The MYC partners with community organizations to create change across the state, and MYC youth members are leaders in many coalitions working for change in MN. Through community engagement events such as town hall meetings and Youth Day at the Capitol, youth members connect with their constituents to authentically represent the needs, hopes, and convictions of young people across the state.

The Minnesota Youth Council faced unanticipated shifts and both internal and external challenges throughout the program year. These challenges were met with the same deference of resilience, innovation, and passion that MYC members bring to all of their work; meeting the needs and concerns of their constituents with worthy urgency and care, seeking equity in all of their projects.

The 36 members of the Minnesota Youth Council represent all eight of Minnesota's Congressional Districts, four members in each CD and four At-Large members. A new committee structure was introduced in 2024 that consisted of three area-focused committees, that was then further broken down into issue-focused subcommittees. This structure allowed members different responsibilities, peer-groups, and balance, and proved partially successful through positive, productive relationships with community partners and progress in the legislature. Overall, this structure siloed committee members and did not prove as successful as past models, and moving forward, the Minnesota Youth Council will be implementing a mix of the 2024-25 committee structure and the old committee structure, introduced in the 2020-21 program year.

## **Youth Representatives, Congressional District Committees, and Subcommittees**

### **Congressional District One**

Alexandra Hanks  
*Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School*  
Dominick Lund-May  
*Fairmont Jr/Sr High School*  
Hilari Palodichuk  
*Cannon Falls High School*  
Tej Bhagra  
*Mayo High School*

### **Congressional District Two**

Elizabeth McCormick  
*Northfield High School*  
Feven Tesfaye  
*Burnsville High School*  
Shreya Sekar  
*Lakeville North High School*  
Zohha Khan  
*Math and Science Academy*

### **Congressional District Three**

Aditi Jha  
*Edina High School*  
Hasini Guntipalli  
*Wayzata High School*  
Janae Rupert  
*Champlin Park High School*  
Molly Birr  
*Minnetonka High School*

### **Congressional District Four**

Aila Brodd  
*Twin Cities Academy*  
Daniel Song  
*East Ridge High School*  
Luca Del Rio  
*Mounds Park Academy*  
Saad Ali  
*St. Croix Preparatory Academy*

**Congressional District Five**

Angela Langsweirdt  
*Edina High School*  
 Aven Simmons  
*Performing Institute of Minnesota*  
 Jonin Morgan  
*Mounds View High School*  
 Julia Rosenman  
*Breck School*

**Congressional District Six**

Adonai Yidnekachew  
*Chaska High School*  
 Alayna Boe  
*Big Lake High School*  
 Alexis Gosewisch  
*Big Lake High School*  
 Mahi Madhan Kumar  
*PSEO at University of Minnesota*

**Congressional District Seven**

Avery Braun  
*Paynesville High School*  
 Braden Cox  
*Alexandria High School*  
 Isabella Rohe  
*Paynesville High School*

**Congressional District Eight**

Alexander Ren  
*Duluth East High School*  
 Taylor O'Shea  
*Deer River High School*

**At-Large**

Emmanuel Edebiri  
*Totino-Grace High School*  
 Furi Tufaa  
*Breck School*  
 Megan Burri  
*Eastview High School*  
 Shyamana Kasat-Shors  
*Washburn High Schools*

**Area Committees**

<b>Policy Research</b>	<b>Project &amp; Policy Implementation</b>	<b>Community Affairs &amp; Media Engagement</b>
Aven Simmons Emmanuel Edebiri Shreya Sekar Hasini Guntipalli Taylor O'Shea Daniel Song Shyamana Kasat-Shors Braden Cox Elizabeth McCormick Aila Brodd Dominick Lund-May Julia Rosenman Janae Rupert	Alexander Ren Adonai Yidnekachew Alexandra Hanks Mahi Madhan Kumar Alayna Boe Jonin Morgan Feven Tesfaye Luca Del Rio Megan Burri Tej Bhagra Isabella Rohe Angela Langsweirdt	Aditi Jha Alexis Gosewisch Avery Braun Hilari Palodichuk Saad Ali Zohha Khan

## Issue Subcommittees

Policy Research		
Substance Prevention Care	Uplifting Youth Voice in Local Government	Expanding Career and Achievement Pathways
Aven Simmons Emmanuel Edebiri Hasini Guntipalli Shreya Sekar	Braden Cox Daniel Song Elizabeth McCormick Shyamana Kasat-Shors Taylor O'Shea	Aila Brodd Dominick Lund-May Janae Rupert Julia Rosenman
Project & Policy Implementation		
Substance Prevention Care	Uplifting Youth Voice in Local Government	Academic Health Standards
Angela Langsweirdt Isabella Rohe Megan Burri Tej Bhagra	Alayna Boe Feven Tesfaye Jonin Morgan Luca Del Rio	Adonai Yidnekachew Alexander Ren Alexandra Hanks Mahi Madhan Kumar
Community Affairs & Media Engagement		
External Engagement	Social Media and Event Planning	
Alexis Gosewisch Saad Ali	Aditi Jha Avery Braun Hilari Palodichuk Zohha Khan	

## Policy Priorities

In July 2024, the 36 MYC representatives engaged in a thorough, 4-day process entailing deliberation, training, and drafting of official priorities. The Minnesota Youth Council's policy priorities during the 2024-2025 year were as follows.

- Uplift Youth Voices in Local Government:** Empower young people to actively participate in creating decisions that directly affect their lives, ensuring their opinions are acknowledged and valued in local government and community leadership. The current voting age is 18, resulting in youth voices feeling overlooked and unheard. By involving youth in local government and giving them

a platform to share ideas and shape policies, we strengthen their ties with leaders and foster their sense of civic responsibility and leadership.

- **Expand Career and Achievement Pathways:** Create more opportunities for students to explore careers and excel academically. The availability of Career & Technical Education (CTE) and job centers for youth is lacking across Minnesota's districts. Implementing these jobs and CTE programs will help set students up for success in postsecondary education.
- **Promotion of Substance Prevention:** Strengthen preventative care and support techniques to address student substance addiction based on their needs and experiences.
- **Development of Statewide Health Academic Standards:** Provide open and inclusive, youth-informed health standards that address crucial problems such as vaping, mental health, and LGBTQ+ sexual education, ensuring all students receive relevant and comprehensive education. There is a disconnect between the current health curriculum set in place and the pressing issues youth are facing. By including modern health issues and knowledge of sexual education, youth will have the resources and information to make safer and healthier decisions.

## Testimony Provided

During the 2025 legislative session, the Minnesota Youth Council representatives' testimony before the House of Representatives and the Senate directly shaped legislative priorities by elevating youth needs and providing firsthand perspectives on proposed bills.

Committee	Purpose	Testifiers
February 26, 2025 Senate Education Finance Committee	Academic Acceleration Pilot Program establishment and appropriation.	MYC Representatives Zohha Khan and Emmanuel Edebiri
February 26, 2025 Senate Education Policy Committee	S.F. 197 (Quade) School board membership requirements modification.	MYC Representatives Taylor O'Shea and Daniel Song
March 24, 2025 Senate Education Policy Committee	S.F. 1687 (Seeberger) Grant high school students permission to possess opiate antagonists.	MYC Representative Hasini Guntipalli
March 25, 2025 House Education Policy	H.F. 2372 (Mueller) Civic seal designation for	MYC Representative Adonai Yidnekachew

Committee	high school students provided.	
April 4, 2025 House Education Finance Committee	H.F. 54 (Sencer-Mura) Grant authorized for Minnesota Youth Council activities, and money appropriated.	MYC Representatives Julia Rosenman and Alexandra Hanks

## 2024-25 MYCC Highlights

### Retreats

The Minnesota Youth Council held three retreats for the MYC representatives during the 2024-25 year: one in the Summer, Winter, and Spring. At these retreats, MYC members learned advocacy skills, participated in various training sessions, discussed major projects and issues, and engaged in team-building activities.

### Youth Day at the Capitol 2025

On February 25, 2025, more than 400 middle and high school students from all across Minnesota gathered in our state's capital to learn about advocacy and meet with their legislators. Members of the Minnesota Youth Council led training sessions to teach the students how to effectively advocate for issues that are important to themselves and their communities, and then attendees had the opportunity to practice those skills in meetings with their elected officials at the Capitol.

### Legislator Roundtable

On March 9, 2025, the Minnesota Youth Council held its first Legislator Roundtable, where members of the Youth Council met with three House representatives at the Minneapolis Central Library to discuss how to further MYC legislative priorities.

## Media

### 2025 MYC State of the Youth Press Conference

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7bV0\\_kiulo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7bV0_kiulo)

### Edina student amplifies young voices on Minnesota Youth Council

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_current/community/edina/edina-student-amplifies-young-voices-on-minnesota-youth-council/article\\_b9251e5e-8a4c-11ef-ad75-eb55fa2859d4.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_current/community/edina/edina-student-amplifies-young-voices-on-minnesota-youth-council/article_b9251e5e-8a4c-11ef-ad75-eb55fa2859d4.html)

## **Opinion: Young People Deserve a Voice on School Boards**

<https://www.startribune.com/opinion-young-people-deserve-a-voice-on-school-boards/60133843>

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## **MYC Representative Speaks Out for Duluth youth**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/local/alex-ren-speaks-out-for-duluth-young-people-on-minnesota-youth-council>

## **Rochester Students Joins the MYC**

<https://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/mayos-tej-bhagra-joins-the-minnesota-youth-council>

## **MYC Selects Two Lakeville Students**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_thisweek/community/lakeville/minnesota-youth-council-selects-two-lakeville-students-to-join-the-council/article\\_b7394a5e-5f07-11ef-ad7b-afc38b6e7506.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_thisweek/community/lakeville/minnesota-youth-council-selects-two-lakeville-students-to-join-the-council/article_b7394a5e-5f07-11ef-ad7b-afc38b6e7506.html)

## **CPHS Student Selected for MYC**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/press\\_and\\_news/free/cphs-student-selected-to-serve-on-minnesota-youth-council/article\\_d7ea2928-2d87-11ef-82b3-476e45e79177.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/press_and_news/free/cphs-student-selected-to-serve-on-minnesota-youth-council/article_d7ea2928-2d87-11ef-82b3-476e45e79177.html)

## **Big Lake Student Joins the MYC**

<https://patriotnewsmn.com/news/gosewisch-joins-the-minnesota-youth-council>

## **MYC Selects Local Students**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_sailor/news/local/local-students-selected-to-join-minnesota-youth-council/article\\_decd4504-64a5-11ef-a58a-1b8eae7721d1.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_sailor/news/local/local-students-selected-to-join-minnesota-youth-council/article_decd4504-64a5-11ef-a58a-1b8eae7721d1.html)

## **Rochester Teen Selected for MYC**

<https://www.kttc.com/2024/08/20/rochester-teen-selected-serve-minnesota-youth-council-mn-congressional-district-1/>

## **Northfield Teen Leader Selected to Serve on MYC**

[https://www.southernminn.com/northfield\\_news/news/teen-leader-selected-to-serve-on-statewide-youth-council/article\\_5de12f84-6a07-11ef-a13d-cf0156017bbc.html](https://www.southernminn.com/northfield_news/news/teen-leader-selected-to-serve-on-statewide-youth-council/article_5de12f84-6a07-11ef-a13d-cf0156017bbc.html)

## **Rosemount Student Joins the MYC**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_thisweek/community/apple\\_valley/rosemount-student-joins-the-minnesota-youth-council/article\\_327b27e0-617f-11ef-a105-9faf814b6400.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_thisweek/community/apple_valley/rosemount-student-joins-the-minnesota-youth-council/article_327b27e0-617f-11ef-a105-9faf814b6400.html)

## **Breck Students Inspiring Change Beyond the Classroom**

<https://www.breckschool.org/student-life/news/2024photos/~board/school-news/post/beyond-the-classroom-how-sara-and-julia-are-inspiring-change-1740592841393>

## **Cheers and Jeers - Leadership Edition**

<https://www.startribune.com/cheers-and-jeers-leadership-edition/601229006>

### **Champlin Park Student Makes Impact All the Way to the Capitol**

[https://ccxmedia.org/news/champlin-park-student-makes-impact-all-the-way-to-state-capitol/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLGiXhleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR5jXLYMztImk-ikY\\_An71w\\_K9TDv9xjSmUUB2\\_V7qPzQywpTDU4QHceF\\_qk\\_g\\_aem\\_YvaxyL0rllcddVWFHS6](https://ccxmedia.org/news/champlin-park-student-makes-impact-all-the-way-to-state-capitol/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLGiXhleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR5jXLYMztImk-ikY_An71w_K9TDv9xjSmUUB2_V7qPzQywpTDU4QHceF_qk_g_aem_YvaxyL0rllcddVWFHS6)

[O4A](#)

### **Opinion as a First Time Voter**

[https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-as-a-first-time-voter/601164517?utm\\_source=gift&fbclid=IwY2xjawLGieFleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR7B-CCI6RUCwSom6rw4cZDS1MAYy2JJRFtiBt9PHh2KjsWSRq41usGclX41qA\\_aem\\_wllq-fWo6vjYIHvjPXPu](https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-as-a-first-time-voter/601164517?utm_source=gift&fbclid=IwY2xjawLGieFleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR7B-CCI6RUCwSom6rw4cZDS1MAYy2JJRFtiBt9PHh2KjsWSRq41usGclX41qA_aem_wllq-fWo6vjYIHvjPXPu)

[wA](#)

### **Youth Mental Health Panel**

[https://www.mprnews.org/story/2024/09/14/youth-mental-health-panel-talks-cell-phone-bans-rural-needs?fbclid=IwY2xjawLGif5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR5\\_GCbTKp7Tmlc\\_tKWxusmaxrqQaNW0svfY7EWMAzcx4WWzoPoEpS2eY7tEsw\\_aem\\_R8WztN](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2024/09/14/youth-mental-health-panel-talks-cell-phone-bans-rural-needs?fbclid=IwY2xjawLGif5leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETF6OExQQjhBcHgza1dMYWMxAR5_GCbTKp7Tmlc_tKWxusmaxrqQaNW0svfY7EWMAzcx4WWzoPoEpS2eY7tEsw_aem_R8WztN)

[oC1Nqzi-gqZcYtpA](#)