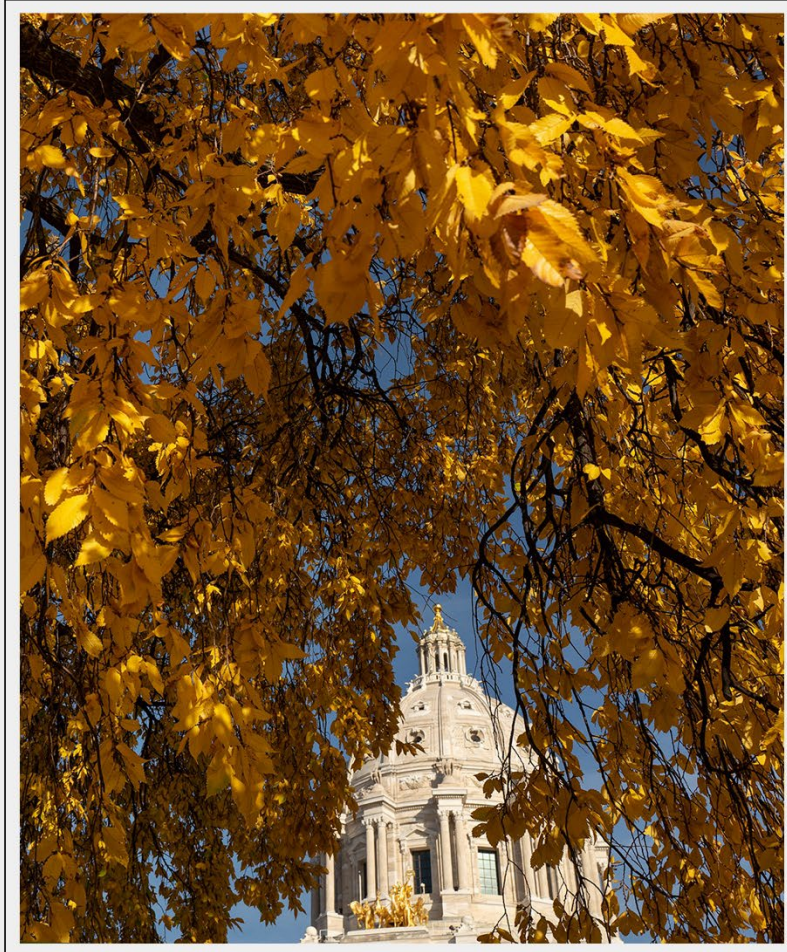


2026 Capitol News Coverage Directory



MINNESOTA SENATE

February 18, 2026
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Capitol News Coverage
Directory 2026

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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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Affiliate: **Alpha News MN - Alphanewsmn.com**

Accredited Individual: Rick Busch

Education: BS Graphic Communications.

Experience: Taught photojournalism for 13 years at the University of Northwestern. 4 years experience photojournalist at Alpha News. 20 years experience President at BizStory.Biz. 20 years experience in the print/press industry.



Affiliate: **Associated Press**

Accredited Individual: Steve Karnowski

Education: B.A., Journalism and Political Science, University of Minnesota, 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.



Affiliate: **Axios**

Accredited Individual: Kyle Stokes

Education: B.A., Journalism and Political Science, University of Missouri, 2007.

Experience: Reporter Axios Media, Inc. since Dec. 2023; Reporter, MinnPost, Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023; Sr. Reporter, Southern California Public Radio, Feb. 2016 - Jan. 2023; Reporter, KNKX Public Radio (Seattle/Tacoma), Mar 2014 - Jan. 2016; Indiana Public Media (Bloomington, Ind.), Jun. 2011 - Feb. 2014.



Affiliate: **Axios**

Accredited Individual: Torey Van Oot

Education: B.A. Print Journalism and Political Science, University of South California, 2009.

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.



Affiliate: **Forum News Service**

Accredited Individual: Mary Murphy

Education: B.A., Journalism/Public Interest Communication/Political Science, 2024.

Experience: Minnesota Statehouse reporter for Forum News Service since October 2024; Freelance for Seattle Times; Cascade PBS Intern with Washington State Journal covering Washington Legislative Session; Managing Editor at The Daily University of Washington Intern for The Everett Herald; International.

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Affiliate: **Gray TV**

Accredited Individual: Quinn Gorham

Education: B.A., Broadcast Journalism, Biola University

Experience: Reporter, MMJ for KBJR/Northern News Now



Affiliate: **KARE-TV 11**

Accredited Individual: Daniel Spewak

Education: B.A., Broadcast Journalism/Political Science, University of Mississippi, 2013.

Experience: KARE-TV since 2018; WARZ-TV, Buffalo MN, 2013-2018



Affiliate: **KMSP-TV 9**

Accredited Individual: Corin Hoggard

Education: B.S., Biology, University of Houston, Honors College, 1994.

Experience: KMSP-TV in the Twin Cities; KFSN-TV in Fresno, CA; KTRK-TV in Houston; Pasadena Citizen newspaper.



Affiliate: **KSTP-TV 5**

Accredited Individual: Eric Chaloux

Education: Bachelor of Journalism - University of Missouri, Juris Doctorate - Taft Law School.

Experience: Journalist since 1998, Minnesota reporter since 2015



Affiliate: **Minnesota News Network**

Accredited Individual: John Anderson

Education: B.A., Journalism, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, 1987.

Experience: 35 years of TV. news experience.

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Affiliate: **Minnesota Public Radio**

Accredited Individual: Peter Cox

Education: Master's Degree - Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Experience: Reporter MPR News - 2014-present Freelance reporter, Johannesburg, South Africa 2011-2014 Reporter/Editor Patch Dunwoody, GA 2009-2011 Freelance reporter - New York, NY 2006-2009 Reporter, St. Cloud Times, West Central Tribune, Albert Lea Tribune 2002-2006



Affiliate: **Minnesota Public Radio**

Accredited Individual: Dana Ferguson

Education: B.A., Communication/Spanish, DePauw University 2014. Member: Media Fellows program.

Experience: Joined MPR News since 2022; Forum News Service as Minnesota Capitol correspondent, 2018-2022; Worked as a state government and politics reporter for the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D.; The Associated Press in Madison, Wis.



Affiliate: **Minnesota Public Radio**

Accredited Individual: Cait Kelley



Affiliate: **Minnesota Reformer**

Accredited Individual: Alyssa Chen



Affiliate: **Minnesota Reformer**

Accredited Individual: Michelle Griffith

Education: B.A., Journalism, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

Experience: The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead, Report for America

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Affiliate: **Minnesota Reformer**
Accredited Individual: Max Nesterak
Education: B.A., Swarthmore College.
Experience: MPR News, NPR.



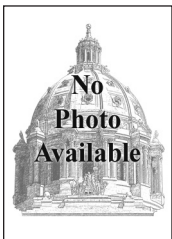
Affiliate: **MinnPost**
Accredited Individual: Brian Arola
Education: University of Minnesota
Experience: Greater Minnesota Reporter at MinnPost, Staff Writer at Mankato Free Press, Staff Writer at Hibbing Daily Tribune



Affiliate: **MinnPost**
Accredited Individual: Matt Blake
Education: Masters in Journalism from Medill Northwestern University.
Experience: MinnPost. Covered state and local government in C.A. and I.L.



Affiliate: **MinnPost**
Accredited Individual: Shadi Bushra
Education: Burnsville Senior Highschool, Stanford University, B.A. International Relations, Columbia Journalism School, Investigative Journalism.
Experience: Correspondent, Reuter, 2013-2015; Associate Producer, CNN 2020; Data Lead, Forbes Advisor, 2022-2024; Data Journalist, 2025 - Present.



Affiliate: **MinnPost**
Accredited Individual: Cleo Krejci
Education: University of Minnesota Twin-Cities, B.A. in Journalism and English Literature, 2020.
Experience: MinnPost: December 2025 - present Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: July 2023 - November 2025 Iowa City Press-Citizen / Des Moines Register: September 2020 - August 2022.

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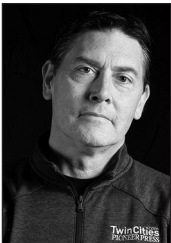


Affiliate: **MinnPost**

Accredited Individual: Ellen Schmidt

Education: Journalism B.A. at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Experience: Photojournalist, 2019-2024, Las Vegas Review Journal Photojournalist, 2025-present, MinnPost



Affiliate: **St. Paul Pioneer Press**

Accredited Individual: John Eric Autey

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



Affiliate: **St. Paul Pioneer Press**

Accredited Individual: Alex Derosier

Education: University of Wisconsin - Superior, University of Missouri.

Experience: Superior Bureau of Wisconsin Public Radio, WNAX, Missouri Radio, Southern California Public Radio, CBS News Washington Bureau, Associated Press Raleigh North Carolina Bureau, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead.

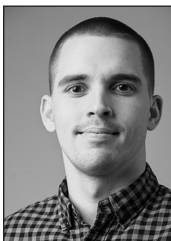


Affiliate: **St. Paul Pioneer Press**

Accredited Individual: Mara Gottfried

Education: B.A., University of Maryland.

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



Affiliate: **Star Tribune**

Accredited Individual: Ryan Faircloth

Education: 2018: B.A. Journalism, University of Minnesota

Experience: 2018-2019: Political Report, St. Paul Pioneer Press 2020-2022: Breaking News Reporter and Higher Education Reporter, Minneapolis Star Tribune 2022-Present: Political Reporter, Star Tribune

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Affiliate: **Star Tribune**

Accredited Individual: Allison Kite

Education: University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications (2016). Minor in Economics and Public Policy

Experience: Missouri Independent/Kansas Reflector (2021-2025), Kansas City Star (2018-2021), Topeka Capital-Journal (2017-2018), Associated Press (2017), WAU Street Journal (2016).



Affiliate: **Star Tribune**

Accredited Individual: Nathaniel Minor

Education: B.A., Journalism and Sociology, The University of St. Thomas, 2010.

Experience: Minnesota Star Tribune, 2025-2026; Colorado Public Radio, 2014-2025; Minnesota Public Radio, 2010-2014.



Affiliate: **The Uptake**

Accredited Individual: Michael McIntee

Education: B.A., Journalism, University of Minnesota, 1981.

Experience: Cofounder and executive producer, The UpTake, since 2006; Conus Communication, 1989-2002; KWTW TV producer, 1987-88; KETV-TV producer 1984-87; KGBT-TV producer, 1982-84; WCCO-TV producer, 1979-1982; WMMR-AM news director, 1977-81.



Affiliate: **Twin Cities P.B.S.**

Accredited Individual: Mary Lahammer

Education: Journalism/Mass Communication, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Capitol correspondent since 1998 for Almanac and creator of Almanac at the Capitol. 12-time regional Emmy Award Winner.



Affiliate: **WCCO-TV 4**

Accredited Individual: Caroline Rose Cummings

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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Affiliate: **WCCO-TV 4**

Accredited Individual: Mike Durenberger

Education: BA University of Minnesota

Experience: 32 years in broadcasting, 10 years covering the MN Legislature.



Affiliate: **WCCO-TV 4**

Accredited Individual: Esme Murphy

Education: Harvard University

Experience: 35 years of WCCO - TV