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# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Information Brief

Kerry Kinney Fine, Legislative Analyst  
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### SELECTION OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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The Board of Regents is the governing body of the University of Minnesota. It is the only governmental body in the state to which members are elected by the Legislature. This information brief describes: the selection process in Minnesota, the newly formed Regent Selection Advisory Council, the current members of the board, and the procedures for selecting regents in other states.

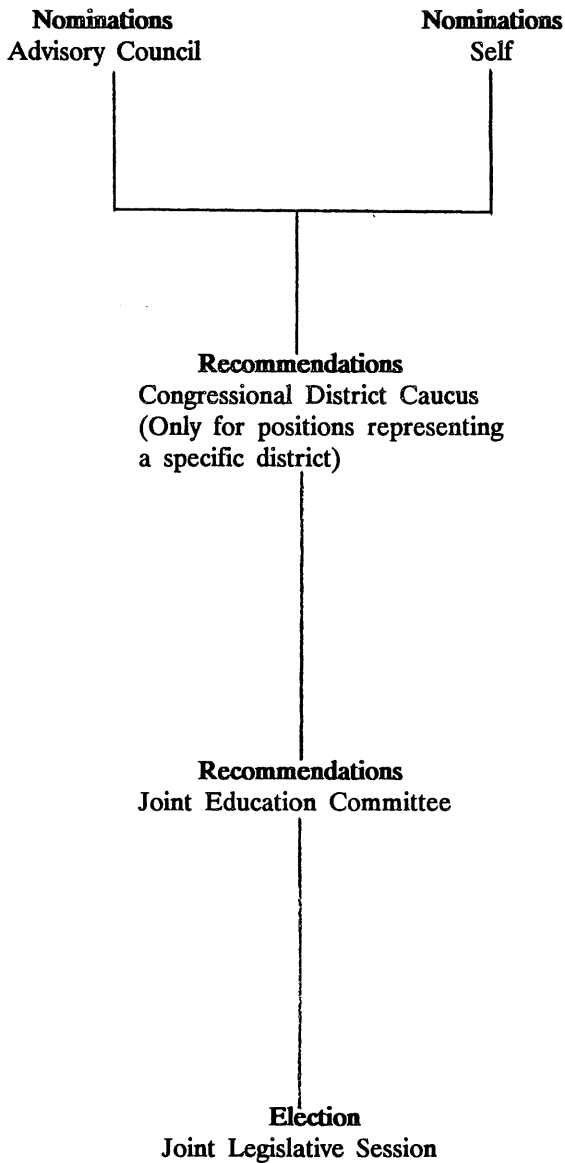
#### *MINNESOTA SELECTION PROCESS*

The Minnesota election provisions were established by the Territorial Legislature in 1851 with only slight modifications in modern statutes. These provisions include the following:

- twelve regents are elected by the Legislature to six year terms
- one-third of the board is elected each odd-numbered year
- eight are elected to represent Congressional districts; four are elected at-large, one of whom must be a current student or recent graduate
- vacancies prior to the expiration of a term are filled by gubernatorial appointment.

Nominations for board membership are informal; candidates traditionally have nominated themselves. The chart on page 2 outlines the selection procedures.

**REGENT SELECTION PROCESS**



**NOMINATIONS**

Regent candidates are recommended by the advisory council or are self-nominated.

**REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Regent nominees representing Congressional districts are reviewed by a caucus of all legislators from that district. A specified number of votes is assigned to each legislator in proportion to the number of his/her constituents residing in that Congressional district. The caucus votes to recommend a candidate.

A joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees (at times, higher education committees) reviews candidates and congressional caucus recommendations and votes to recommend candidates to the full Legislature.

**ELECTION**

The legislative houses convene jointly to review candidates and recommendations and to elect regents to six year terms.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The 1988 Legislature voted to alter the nominating procedures by creating a Regent Selection Advisory Council to assist in identifying candidates.

**Membership**

The advisory council is composed of 24 members: 12 are appointed by the Speaker of the House and 12 by the Senate subcommittee on committees of the committee on rules and administration. Initial members are appointed for 2, 4 or 6 years to provide for staggered terms; future appointments will be for six-year terms with one-third appointed each even-numbered year. The following criteria apply to the appointments:

- no more than 1/3 of those appointed may be current or former legislators
- no more than 2/3 of those appointed may belong to the same political party
- political affiliation or activity may not be required for the appointment of any member
- geographical representation must be considered in making appointments.

**Duties**

The advisory council is charged with two related duties:

- development of two statements -- one describing regents' duties and one outlining criteria to be applied in recommending candidates
- identification and recruitment of qualified candidates for each opening on the board.

The council is required to recommend to the Legislature 2-4 candidates for each opening.

**CURRENT BOARD OF REGENTS**

Current regents are listed below.

<i>Member</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Term Expiration</i>
Wendell R. Anderson	6	1991
Charles H. Casey	1	1991
M. Elizabeth Craig	3	1993
J. P. Grahek	8	1993
Wally Hilke	At large	1989
Elton A. Kuderer	2	1993
David M. Lebedoff	5	1989
Charles F. McGuiggan	At large	1989
Wenda Weekes Moore	At large	1989
David K. Roe	At large	1993
Stanley D. Sahlstrom	7	1991
Mary T. Schertler	4	1991

**SELECTION IN OTHER STATES**

Minnesota is one of only five states where some or all of the members of the university governing board are selected by the Legislature. In most states the governor appoints the board members, usually with the consent of one or both bodies of the Legislature.

The chart below shows, for each state, the number of regents, the length of terms, and the appointing authority.

**REGENT SELECTION\***

State	# of Members (excluding ex officio)	Length of term (years)	Public Elect	Appointing Authorities			
				Governor	Governor with Legislative Consent	Legislature	Other
Alabama	9	1					X
Alaska	11	8			X		
Arizona	9	5			X		
Arkansas	10	10			X		
California	18	12		X			
Colorado	9	6	X				
Connecticut	16	6		X			
Delaware	28	3		X (8 members)			X (20)
Florida	13	4			X		
Georgia	15	7			X		
Hawaii	11	4			X		
Idaho	8	5			X		
Illinois	12	6			X		
Indiana	9	3					X
Iowa	9	6			X		
Kansas	9	4			X		
Kentucky	20	6		X			
Louisiana	17	6			X		
Maine	15	7		X			
Maryland	14	5		X			
Massachusetts	15	5		X			
Michigan	8	8	X				
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	12	6				X	
Mississippi	13	12			X		
Missouri	9	6			X		

State	# of Members (excluding ex officio)	Length of term (years)	Public Elect	Appointing Authorities			
				Governor	Governor with Legislative Consent	Legislature	Other
Montana	7	7		X			
Nebraska	11	6	X				
Nevada	9	6	X				
New Hampshire	16	4		X			
New Jersey	11	6		X (6)			X (5)
New Mexico	5	6			X		
New York	15	10			X		
North Carolina	32	6				X	
North Dakota	8	7			X		
Ohio	9	9			X		
Oklahoma	7	7			X		
Oregon	11	4			X		
Pennsylvania	27	3			X (6)	X (8)	X (13)
Rhode Island	10	3			X		
South Carolina	17	4				X	
South Dakota	9	6			X		
Tennessee	16	9			X		
Texas	9	6			X		
Utah	16	6			X		
Vermont	23	6			X (3)	X (9)	X (11)
Virginia	16	4			X		
Washington	9	6		X			
West Virginia	9	6			X		
Wisconsin	14	7			X		
Wyoming	12	6			X		

\*The appointing authority indicated appoints all or most members. In some states a limited number of additional members (e.g. students, faculty, organizational representatives) are appointed by a different authority.

Source: Education Commission of the States