

HOUSE RESEARCH

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Information Brief

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Selection of Regents of the University of Minnesota

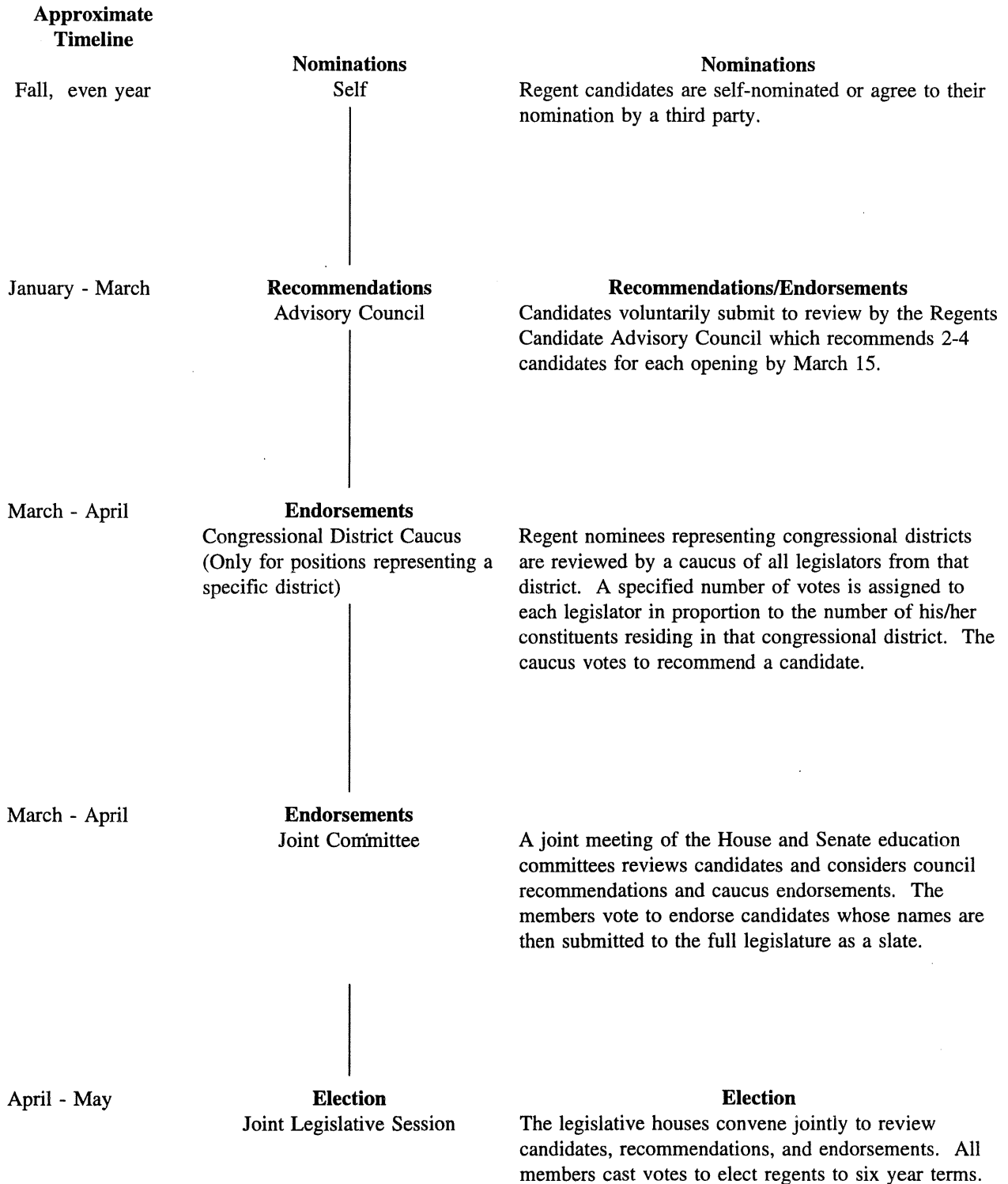
The Board of Regents is the governing body of the University of Minnesota. It is the only governmental body in the state to which members are elected by the legislature. This information brief describes: the selection process in Minnesota, the Regent Selection Advisory Council, and the current members of the board, highlighting the vacancies to be filled in the 1995 legislative session.

Legal Provisions

The Minnesota regent 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 members are elected to represent congressional districts; four are elected at-large, one of whom must be a student at the time of election
- vacancies prior to the expiration of a term are filled by gubernatorial appointment.

Regent Selection Process



Advisory Council

The 1988 Legislature established a Regent Selection Advisory Council to assist in identifying candidates. Prior to that time, candidates nominated themselves and no screening process existed.

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 were appointed for two, four, or six years to provide for staggered terms; later appointments are 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 two to four candidates for each opening.

Timeline for Selection

The Regent Selection Advisory Council meets throughout the year with increased activity during the months immediately preceding the legislative election.

The council receives nominations during the fall preceding election. It selects a pool of candidates for each position and conducts public interviews with them during the winter. By March 15 the council submits the names of two to four recommended candidates for each opening.

The legislative process generally begins in March with congressional district caucuses for seats representing districts. Joint committee meetings follow the caucuses in March or early April. Elections usually occur in April or early May.

Current Board of Regents

Current regents are listed below. Seats which will be up for election in 1995 are shown in bold print.

Member	District	Term Expiration
H. Bryan Neel	1	1997
Julie A. Bleyhl	2	1999
William E. Hogan II	3	1999
Hyon T. Kim	4	1997
Jean Keffeler	5	1995
Wendell R. Anderson	6	1997
Stanley D. Sahlstrom	7	1997
Thomas R. Reagan	8	1999
Mary J. Page	At large	1995
Lawrence Perlman	At large	1995
William R. Peterson	At large	1999
Darrin M. Rosha	At large, student	1995