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# Election 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 election process in Minnesota, the Regent Selection Advisory Council, and the current members of the board, highlighting the vacancies to be filled in the 1997 legislative session.

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## Legal Provisions

The Minnesota regent election provisions were established by the territorial legislature as part of the University charter in 1851, and then incorporated into the Constitution when Minnesota achieved statehood. Some statutory specifications have been added. The constitutional and statutory provisions include the following:

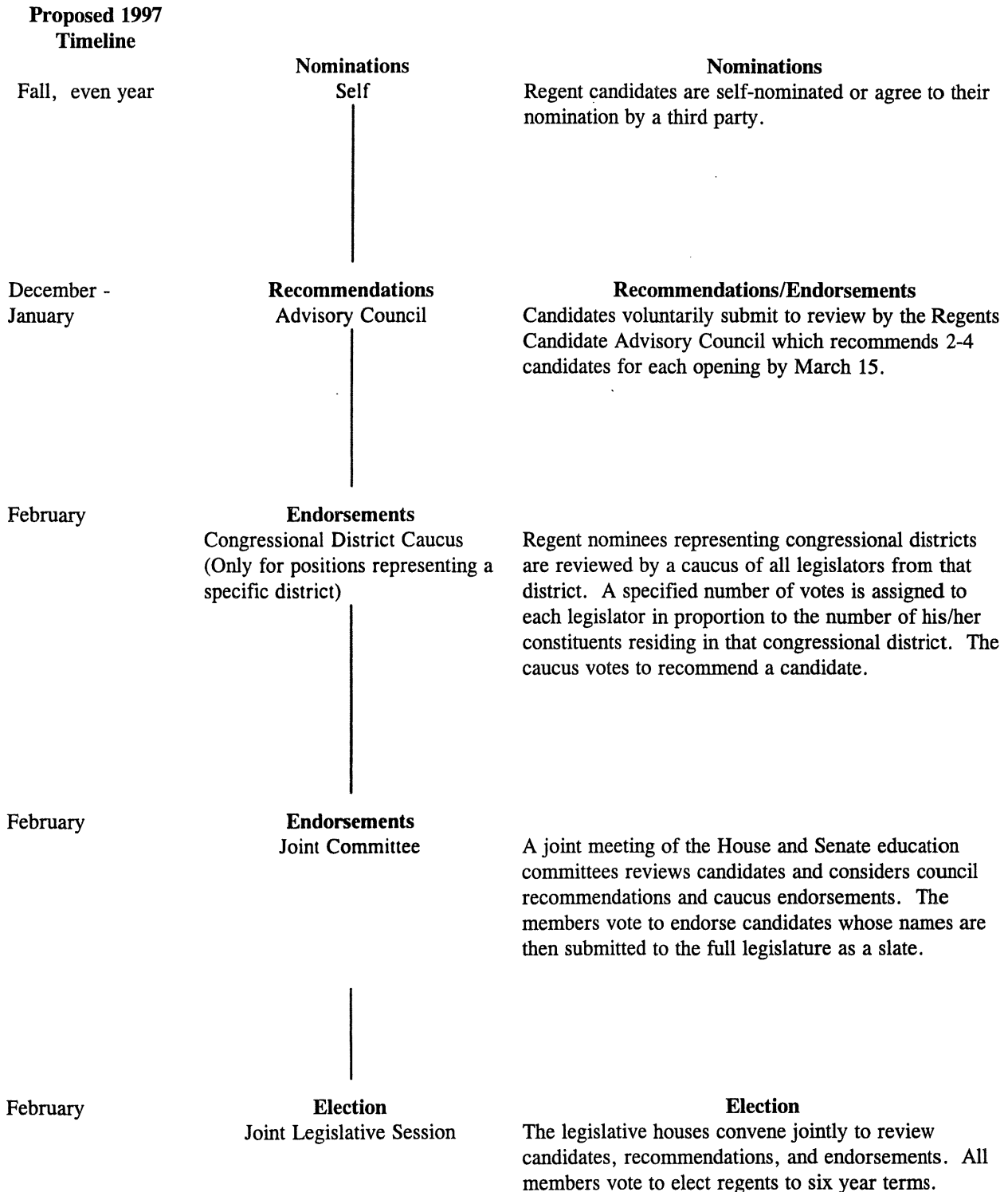
### Constitutional

- Twelve regents are elected by the legislature to six year terms.
- One-third of the board is elected each odd-numbered year at a joint convention of the legislature.
- Vacancies prior to the expiration of a term are filled temporarily by gubernatorial appointment.

### Statutory

- Eight members are elected to represent congressional districts.
- One at-large regent must be a student at the time of election.

## Regent Election Process



## **Advisory Council**

The 1988 Legislature established a Regent Selection Advisory Council to assist in recruiting and 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 three duties:

- develop statements describing regents' duties and outlining criteria for recommending candidates;
- identify and recruit qualified candidates for each opening on the board; and
- recommend to the legislature two to four candidates for each opening.

## **Timeline for Election**

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 must submit the names of two to four recommended candidates for each opening.

The legislative process usually has started in March with congressional district caucuses. Joint committee meetings have followed the caucuses in March or early April, with elections in April or early May. For the 1997 session, the council has proposed that the process conclude earlier, with the election being held in late February.

Traditionally, newly-elected regents assume their seats at the June meeting of the Board of Regents.

## Current Board of Regents

Current regents are listed below. Seats which will be up for election in 1997 are shown in bold print.

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
<b>H. Bryan Neel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1997</b>
Julie A. Bleyhl	2	1999
William E. Hogan	3	1999
<b>Hyon T. Kim</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Jean Keffeler</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2001 (resigned 10/31/96)</b>
<b>Wendell R. Anderson</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Stanley D. Sahlstrom</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1997</b>
Thomas R. Reagan	8	1999
Warren Larson	At large	2001
William R. Peterson	At large	1999
Patricia Spence	At large	2001
Jessica Phillips	At large, student	2001