

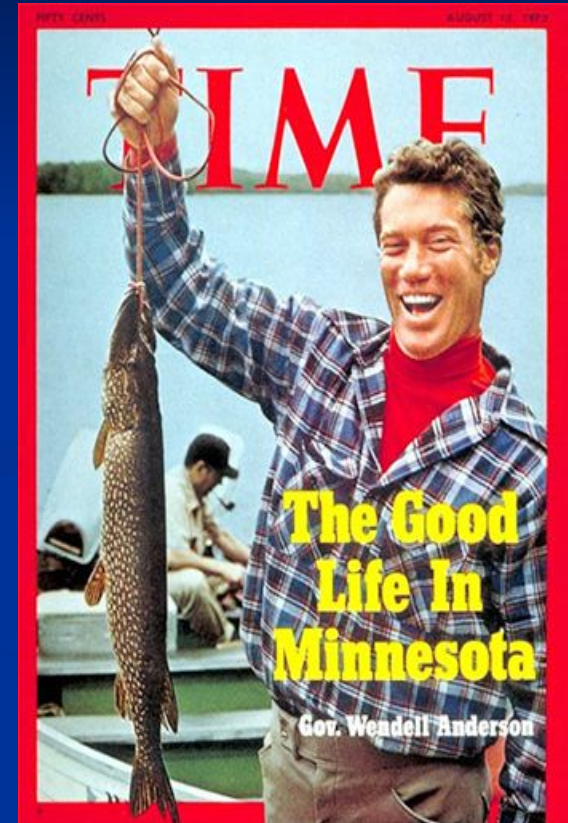


Minnesota Government

U.S. Government and Politics

Minnesota's Government

- Like all States, Minnesota is unitary.
The U.S. is Federal.
 - 4 levels of state Government:
 - County
 - City (Municipal)
 - Township
 - School Board
- 3 branches of government
 - Executive: Governor
 - Legislative: State Legislature
 - Judicial: State Courts (District, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court)



Minnesota's Constitution

- Originally adopted on October 13, 1857
- A major revision in 1974 modernized the language
- In the 1980s, all gender specific pronouns were removed
- 14 Articles
- Far more specific than the federal Constitution
- Amendments are proposed by the Legislature and approved by the voters

Minnesota's Bill of Rights

- Contained in the first article
- Largely mirrors the protections in the Federal Bill of Rights
 - Some surprises:
 - You can't go to jail for being in debt (Article 1, Section 12)
 - Bans Feudalism (Article 1, Section 15)
 - You can't be declared incompetent by the State because of your religious beliefs (Article 1, Section 17)

The Governor

- Minnesota's Chief Executive
- Elected by popular vote to a 4 year term
- Has similar powers to the President
 - Signs and Vetoes bills, but has a line-item veto
 - Carries out the laws



Governor
Tim Walz (DFL)



Lt. Governor
Peggy
Flannigan
(DFL)

The Governor's Cabinet

- The Governor is supported by a cabinet made up of 24 commissioners
 - Each commissioner leads a department (MnDOT, Corrections, Education, etc)



Governor Dayton's cabinet

State Constitutional offices

- In addition to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Minnesota has several Constitutional Offices
 - Elected by the people to 4 year terms, running at the same time as the Governor
- Attorney General, Secretary of State, etc.

Attorney General

- The State's Chief Legal Officer
- Represents the State in lawsuits and can file lawsuits on behalf of the State
 - Biggest lawsuit in Minnesota history: In 1994, Attorney General Skip Humphrey sues the tobacco industry, and wins! The tobacco industry was forced to change marketing, and paid \$6 billion over 25 years to Minnesota, then \$200 million a year forever after that



Current Attorney
General Lori Swanson
(DFL)

Secretary of State

- Chief Election officer of the State
- Maintains the Great Seal of Minnesota, and certifies the authenticity of official documents
- Maintains records of private citizens or businesses filed with the State



Current Secretary of
State Steve Simon
(DFL)

Minnesota State Auditor

The **Minnesota Auditor** is a constitutionally established state executive position in the Minnesota state government. The Office of the State Auditor oversees spending by local governments in Minnesota through financial, compliance, and special audits.

Rebecca Otto



The State Legislature

- Minnesota's Legislative Branch
 - Made up of the Senate and House of Representatives
- The State is split into 67 districts by overall population, each represented by a Senator (*134 in the House*)
- Each of the districts is divided by population into two, each represented by a Representative
 - Example: IHS's Senator is Carolyn Laine (District 41) and Representative is Connie Bernardy (District 41A)
- Who represents me?

The Legislature

- Members of the House are elected every two years
- Members of the Senate are elected every four years, opposite of Gubernatorial elections
- The Legislature is organized into sessions, each 2 years in length, or *Biennium*
 - Maximum of 120 days per biennium
 - Odd years are *Budget* years, even years are *Bonding*
 - In bonding sessions, the Legislature borrows money for projects

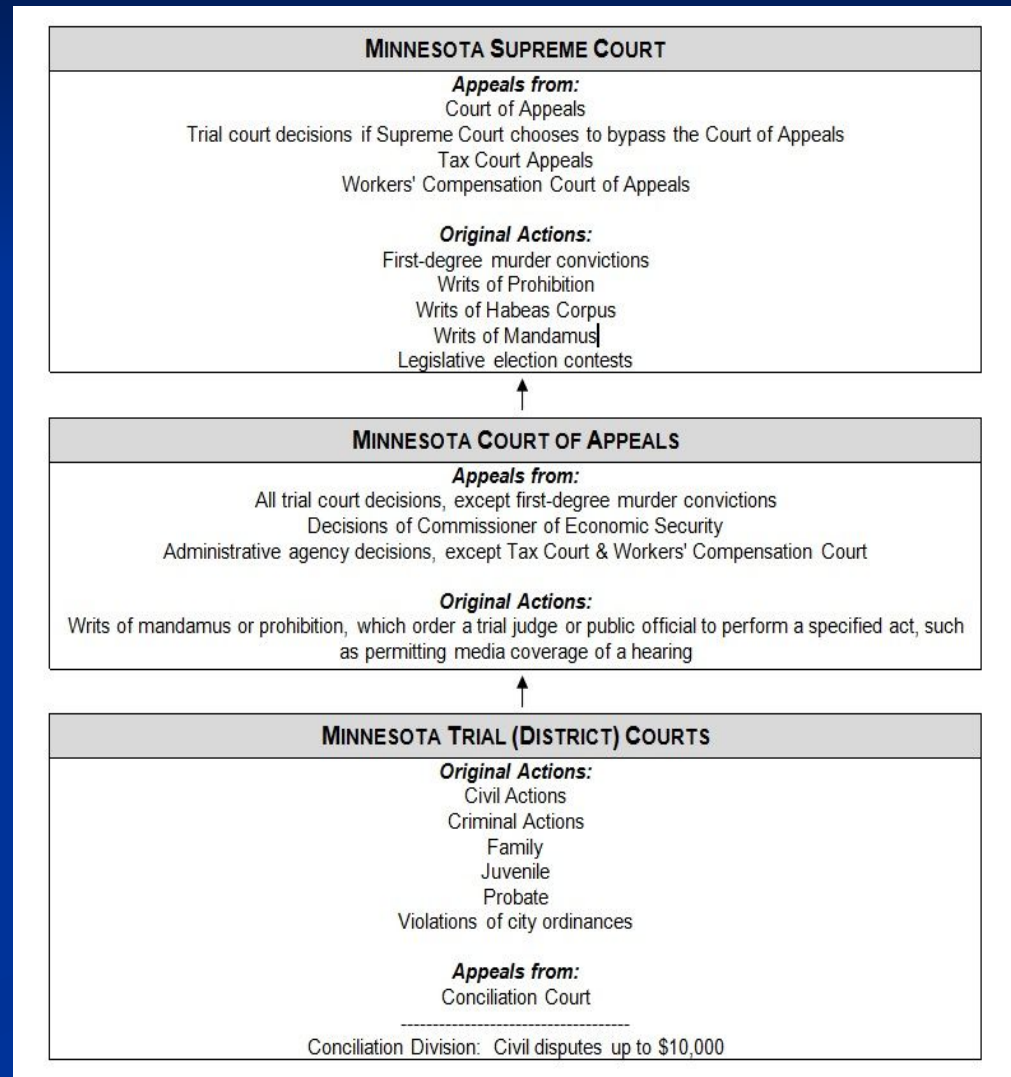
The Court System



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

- Contains
district,
appellate and a
Supreme Court
*(just like the federal
court system)*

- Link: [Find your courts](#)

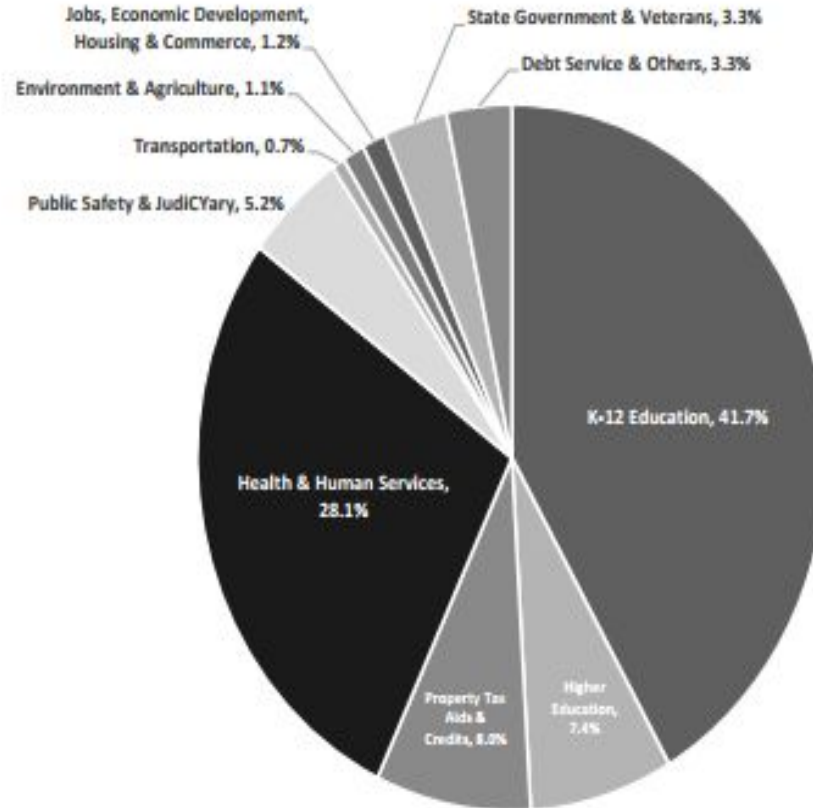


Minnesota's Budget

- Minnesota will have a **\$1.65 billion** budget surplus for the next two years (Feb 28, 2017)
 - Legislators and the governor will decide how to use the surplus
- [Link to Governor's Budget](#)

State Expenses

- #1 Expense is K-12 education
- Followed by health and human services



(\$ in Millions)

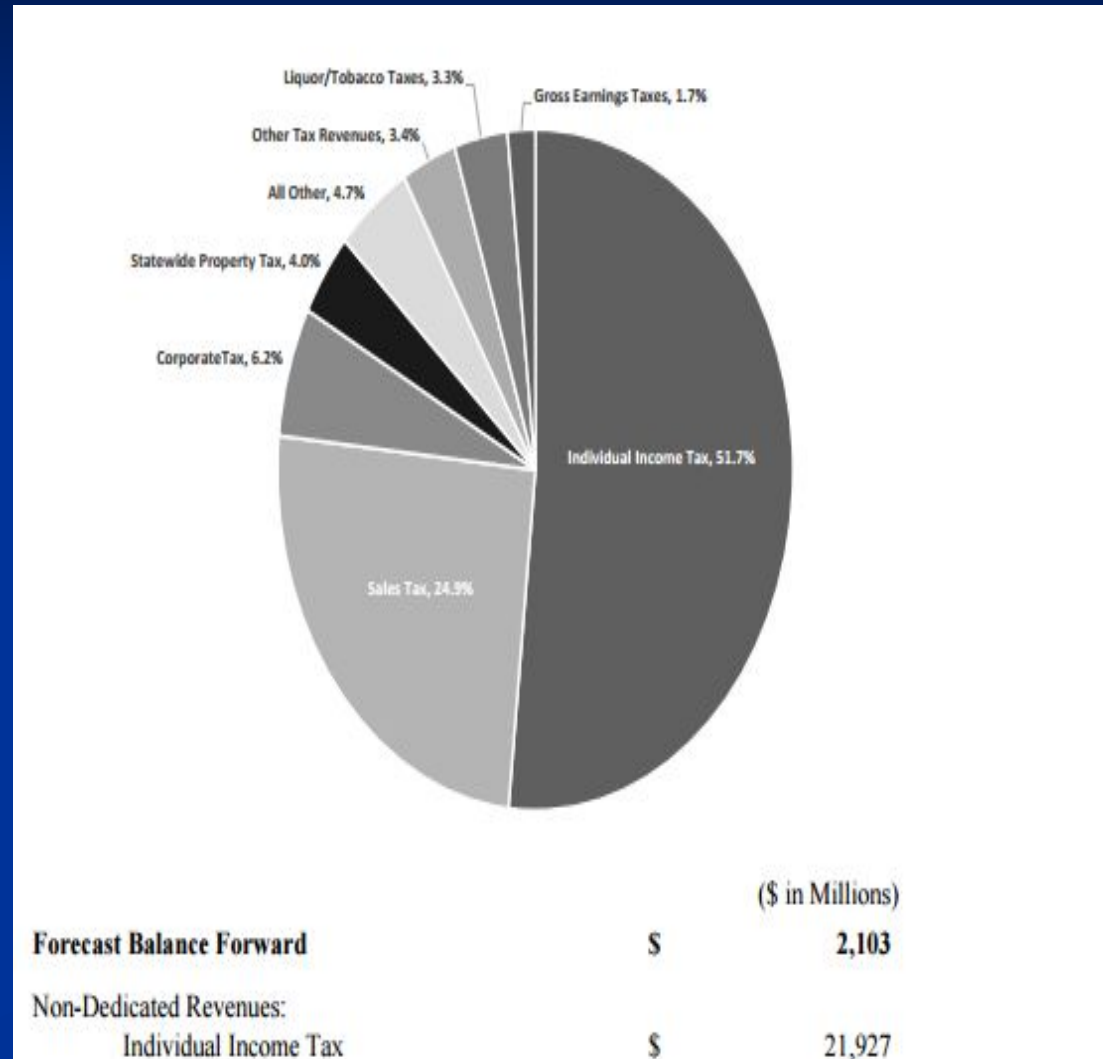
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES, FY 2016-17

\$

44,539

State Revenue

- Minnesota requires a balanced budget
- Revenue largely comes from the individual income tax



Federal vs State budgets

- Unlike Minnesota, the US government does not have to have a balanced budget.
- Also the federal budget is made annually.
- If taxes exceed spending it is called a surplus. If taxes are less than spending, it is a deficit.

[Link to current US Budget situation](#)

Politics of Minnesota

- Minnesota has three major parties:
 - Republican Party
 - Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) - tied to national Democratic Party
 - Independence Party
- Minnesota's voter turnout is regularly the best in the nation

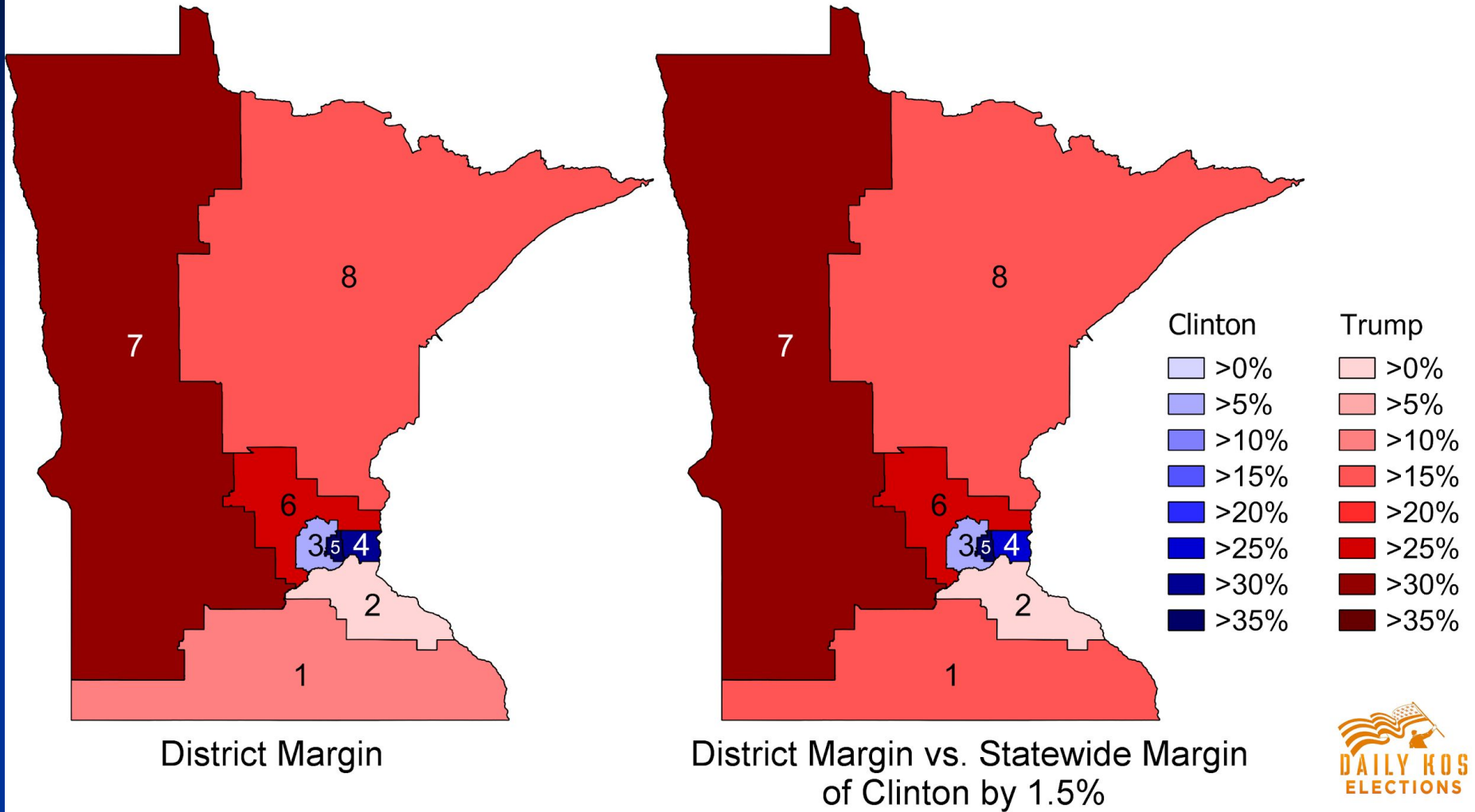
How does Minnesota vote?

- Minnesota has five major geographic voting blocs:
 - Inner cities and inner suburbs (Minneapolis/ St. Paul, Bloomington, Roseville): Heavily DFL
 - Regional centers (Rochester, Mankato, Duluth, St. Cloud, Moorhead): Strongly DFL
 - Iron Range (Hibbing): Moderately DFL, but trending Republican
 - Suburban Twin Cities (Blaine, Maple Grove, Eden Prairie, Woodbury): Moderately Republican.
 - Rural Areas and Exurbs (Forest Lake, Farmington, Rogers): Strongly Republican

Minnesota Election Results

2016 Results

Minnesota 2016 Presidential Election Results by Congressional District



Political Pressures

- Environmental
 - Inner cities vs. Rural vs. Iron Range
- Taxes/Government Services
 - Low Tax/Low Service vs. High Tax/High Service
- Education
 - Major reform vs. incremental change
- Water
 - Usage, protection, rural availability