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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, explains the role of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, and lists the current members of the Board of Regents.

Legal Provisions

The University of Minnesota regent election provisions were established by the territorial legislature as part of the university charter in 1851, and then incorporated into the state constitution when Minnesota achieved statehood. Some statutory specifications have been added. The election of the regents is also governed under the joint rules of the House and the Senate.

The Minnesota Constitution provides for the number of regents, their term in office, the election process, and the method for filling vacancies. Minn. Const., art. XIII, §§ 3 and 6.

- Twelve regents are elected by the legislature to six-year terms. University Charter §§ 4 and 5.
- One-third of the board is elected each odd-numbered year at a joint convention of the legislature. University Charter § 5.

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- The governor may make a temporary appointment to fill a vacancy on the board until the legislature elects a successor. University Charter § 6.

Minnesota statutes require geographic and student representation on the board, establish an advisory council, and provide a process to recommend candidates to the legislature.

- Eight regents are elected to represent congressional districts. Minn. Stat. § 137.024.
- One at-large regent must be a student at the time of election. Minn. Stat. § 137.023.
- An advisory council, appointed by the legislature, recommends qualified candidates. Minn. Stat. § 137.0245.

Joint legislative rules require a joint hearing of the education committees to recommend regent candidates to a joint convention of the Senate and the House.

- A joint committee of the Senate and House education committees meets to hear recommendations of the regents advisory committee and other nominations from members. The joint committee recommends, by a majority vote, a slate of candidates to the full legislature. Joint Rules 4.01
- A joint convention of the Senate and House elects, by majority vote, a regent for each vacant seat from slate of candidates recommended by the joint committee and other nominations by legislators from the floor. Joint Rules 4.02

Advisory Council

The 1988 Legislature established a Regent Candidate Advisory Council to assist in identifying, recruiting, screening, and recommending candidates. Prior to that time, candidates nominated themselves and no screening process existed. A regent can be elected to serve more than one term, but the election process is the same for subsequent elections.

The House and the Senate appoint the 24 members of the advisory council to staggered six-year terms.

One-third of the members are appointed each even-numbered year as follows:

- four new members are appointed by the speaker of the House;
- four new members are appointed by the Senate subcommittee on committees of the committee on rules and administration;
- no more than one-third of those appointed may be current or former legislators;
- no more than two-thirds of those appointed may belong to the same political party;
- political affiliation or activity may not be required for the appointment of any member;
- and
- geographical representation must be considered in making appointments.

The advisory council is responsible for developing selection criteria for regent candidates.

According to the written criteria, regent candidates:

- must be Minnesota residents and a resident of the congressional district for a seat identified by congressional district;
- must be enrolled in a University degree program for the student seat;
- should be knowledgeable about Minnesota higher education and the role of the University of Minnesota;
- should have a record of civic and social commitment relevant to service on the board;
- should have previous experience serving on governing boards;
- should be persons of high moral and ethical integrity;
- should be aware of any potential conflict of interest and be able to put the university's interest first; and
- should be able to devote the time, energy, and financial resources necessary to fill a six-year term without compensation.

The advisory council must recommend two to four candidates for each regent seat to the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate.

The council submits a report with the name of the candidates for each open regent seat for consideration by the legislature.

Election Process

The election process starts with the Regent Candidate Advisory Council recruiting candidates during the fall preceding the regent election and culminates with the election of regents by a joint convention of the legislature in February or March of the odd-numbered years.

The Regent Candidate Advisory Council recommends regent candidates by early February.

- The council solicits and receives nominations for regents in the fall preceding the election.
- From the applications, the council selects a pool of candidates to interview for each position.
- The council conducts public interviews in January of the odd-numbered year.
- By statute, the council must make recommendations by March 15 of the odd-numbered years.
- Since 1997, the council has made its recommendations by early February.

District caucuses recommend regent nominees for seats identified by congressional district.

- The legislators from each congressional district with an open regent seat hold a caucus in February to consider regent candidates.
- A legislator from the congressional district reports the caucus recommendations to the legislature.

Joint meetings of the House and Senate education committees meet in February.

- The joint committee considers recommendations of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council and reports from the district caucuses.
- Members of the joint committee may also nominate persons for open regent positions.
- The joint committee reports a slate of candidates to the full legislature.

The House and Senate meet in joint convention in late February to elect regents.

- The slate of regent candidates recommended by the joint committee is placed in nomination.
- Legislators can also nominate persons for each regent seat.
- Regents are elected by a majority vote of the joint convention.

Since the advisory council was established, all regents have been elected from the group recommended by the advisory council. The appendix has a history of the recommendations made by the advisory council, the joint committee, and the regents elected by the legislature.

Regent Election Process

Timeline Fall, even year	Nominations Self	Nominations Regent candidates are self-nominated or agree to their nomination by a third party.
December - January	Recommendations Advisory Council	Recommendations/Endorsements Candidates voluntarily submit to review by the Regents Candidate Advisory Council, which recommends two to four candidates for each opening.
February	Endorsements Congressional District Caucus (Only for positions identified by a specific district)	District Caucuses 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.
February	Endorsements Joint Committee	Joint Committee A joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees reviews candidates and considers council recommendations, and caucus endorsements. Members can also place names in nomination. The members vote to endorse candidates whose names are then submitted to the full legislature as a slate.
February	Election Joint Legislative Session	Election The House and Senate convene jointly to review candidates, recommendations and endorsements. Members can also place names in nomination. All members vote to elect regents to six-year terms.
March		Regents assume seats on the board.

Current Board of Regents

Current regents are listed below with the year in which their terms expire.

Member	District	Term Expiration
H. Bryan Neel	1	2003
Dallas Bohnsack	2	2005
William Hogan	3	2005
David Metzen	4	2003
Michael O'Keefe	5	2001
Maureen Reed	6	2003
Robert Bergland	7	2003
Anthony Baraga	8	2005
Warren Larson	At large	2001
Vacant*	At large	
Patricia B. Spence	At large	2001
Jessica Phillips	At large, student	2001

* Governor Ventura did not appoint a temporary successor for at-large regent position left vacant as a result of the death of Regent William R. Peterson in the fall of 2000.

Appendix

History of Regent Election and Recommendations of the Regent Advisory Council

Year	Regent Selection Advisory Council Recommendations	Elected to Six-Year Terms	
1989	Student:	David Gerald Minkkinen Randall Scott Peterson Geoffrey Andrew Pollak Darrin Michael Rosha (S)	Darrin M. Rosha (S)
	Fifth District:	Karen O'Link Bachman Jean Burhardt Keffeler (S) Alan Cedric Page (S) Terry Tinson Saario	Jean Burhardt Keffeler (S)
	At-large (2 seats):	Alan Cedric Page (S) Yvonne Corker Condell Gordon Melburn Donhowe (withdrew) Luella Gross Goldberg Lester Christensen Krogh Vernon Lee Moore Mary J. Page (S) James Patrick Shannon Gary Hilton Stern	Alan Cedric Page (S) Mary J. Page (S)
May 3, 1989 Joint Convention			
<u>Legislative Nominations</u>			
	Fifth District:	Alan C. Page nominated by Rep. Osthoff	
	Student:	David Minkkinen nominated by Rep. Ogren Randall Peterson nominated by Rep. Lynch	
	At-Large:	Luella Goldberg nominated by Rep. Luther Cy Carpenter nominated by Sen. Adkins James Shannon nominated by Sen. Waldorf Vernon Moore nominated by Rep. Himle	
1990-1991 Regent Jack Grabek resigned and Thomas Reagan was appointed by Governor Perpich			
1991	First District:	James H. Manahan (S) H. Bryan Neel III Karen E. Nielson Nedra M. Wicks	H. Bryan Neel III
	Fourth District:	David L. Beaulieu Arthur William (Bill) Sands, Jr. Ann Wynia (S) Biloine (Billie) W. Young	Ann Wynia (S)

(I) incumbent regent
 (A) appointed by governor
 (S) slate of candidates recommended by the joint education committee

Year	Regent Selection Advisory Council Recommendations	Elected to Six-Year Terms
	Sixth District: Wendell R. Anderson (I) (S) Michael E. Hart Christine Anderson Morrison Gerald W. Timm Seventh District: Gretchen U. Beito Jay D. Myster Mary N. Preisler Stanley D. Sahlstrom (I) (S)	Wendell R. Anderson (S) Stanley D. Sahlstrom (S)
April 17, 1991 Joint Convention		
<u>Legislative Nominations</u>		
First District: Seventh District: Fourth District:	H. Bryan Neel nominated by Rep. Bishop Eduardo Wolle nominated by Rep. Mariani Jay D. Myster nominated by Rep. Anderson, R. Arthur Williams Sands Jr. nominated by Rep. Valento	
1993 Regent Alan Page resigned and Lawrence Perlman was appointed by Governor Carlson		
Second District: Third District: Eighth District: At-Large (2 seats):	Kenneth Albrecht Julie Bleyhl (S) Dallas Bohnsack Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr. Lurline Baker-Kent M. Elizabeth Craig William E. Hogan (S) Michael P. Sullivan Edith H. Michalski Thomas Reagan (S) Marvin Berman Charles M. Denny, Jr. Mary Kim William Lahr David R. Metzen Lawrence Perlman (A) (S) William Peterson (S) Sandra L. Vargas	Julie Bleyhl (S) William E. Hogan (S) Thomas Reagan (S) William Peterson (S) Lawrence Perlman (S) to remainder of Page term
April 26, 1993 Joint Convention		
Second District: Third District: At-Large:	Dallas Bohnsack nominated by Sen. Oliver M. Elizabeth Craig nominated by Rep. Pauly Mary Kim nominated by Rep. Evans Sandra L. Vargas nominated by Rep. Mariani Marvin Borman nominated by Rep. Abrams	

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Year	Regent Selection Advisory Council Recommendations		Elected to Six-Year Terms
1994	Resignation of Regent Ann Wynia Fourth District: Gerald Christenson Hyon T. Kim (S) Elsa Vega-Perez Billie Young		Hyon T. Kim (S) to remainder of Wynia term
----- April 21, 1994 Joint Convention No legislative nominations			
1995	At-Large (2 seats): Warren Larson Richard McNamara (S) Patricia Spence (S) Emily Anne Staples Tuttle Bilone W. Young At-Large Student: Jessica Phillips (S) Cecil Smith Fifth District: Jean B. Keffeler (I) (S) Michael M. Vekich		Warren Larson Patricia Spence (S) Jessica Phillips (S) Jean B. Keffeler (S)
----- May 3, 1995 Joint Convention <u>Legislative Nominations</u> At-Large: Biloine Young nominated by Rep. Entenza Mike Vekich nominated by Rep. Rhodes Warren Larson nominated by Rep. Olson, E			
1996 Resignation of Regent Jean Keffeler and appointment of Michael O'Keefe by Governor Carlson			
1997	First District: H. Bryan Neel (I) (S) Thomas Stoa Fourth District: W. Andrew Boss Carol Ericson David R. Metzen (S) Fifth District: William E. Drake Michael O'Keefe (S) Sixth District: George Allen Barbara B. Klemme Maureen K. Reed (S) Seventh District: Bob S. Bergland (S) Herbert W. Chilstrom		H. Bryan Neel (S) David R. Metzen (S) Michael O'Keefe (S) to remainder of Keffeler term Maureen K. Reed Bob S. Bergland (S)

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Year	Regent Selection Advisory Council Recommendations	Elected to Six-Year Terms
February 27, 1997 Joint Convention		
<u>Legislative Nominations</u>		
	First District: Thomas Stoa nominated by Sen. Spear	
	Fourth District: Carol Ericson nominated by Rep. McGuire	
	Seventh District: Bob Anderson nominated by Rep. Anderson, I.	
1999	Second District: Dallas Bohnsack (S) Rholan Larson	Dallas Bohnsack (S)
	Third District: Richard Clarke William Hogan (S)	William Hogan (S)
	Eighth District: Anthony Baraga (S) Fred Friedman Frances Gardeski Thomas Renier	Anthony Baraga (S)
	At-Large: David C. Johnson William Peterson (S)	William Peterson (S)
February 18, 1999 Joint Convention		
	Second District: Julie Bleyhl nominated by Rep. Kahn	
	At-Large: Julie Bleyhl nominated by Rep. Molnau	
2000 Vacancy from death of Regent William Peterson and no appointment by Governor Ventura		

- (I) incumbent regent
- (A) appointed by Governor
- (S) slate of candidates recommended by the joint education committee

Sources: *Regent Candidate Advisory Council*, Report to the Minnesota Legislature, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999
 Minutes of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, April 6, 1994
Journal of the House