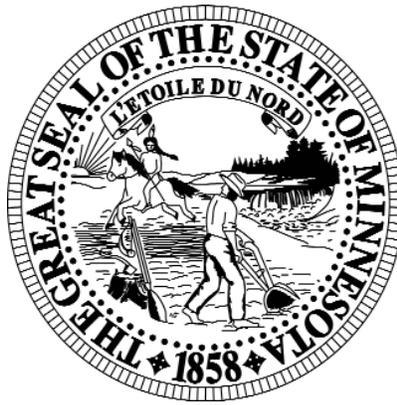


Minnesota



Legislative Manual

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Dedication of Blue Book

In his December 1864 address to Congress, President Lincoln wrote, "the most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections." If the 2008 election is an indication, the nation and the state's public purpose has changed dramatically since the publication of the last Legislative Manual.

The 2008 elections will be long remembered as a record-breaking year for voting in Minnesota with nearly 2.93 million voters casting a ballot—a turnout of roughly 78 percent of eligible voters. Minnesota again led the nation in voter turnout. But beyond the numbers, 2008 was an historic election year requiring not one but two statewide recounts—the first in over forty years. In the September primary a state Supreme Court race required a recount, and the U.S. Senate recount in the general election put Minnesota in the national spotlight for months.

Minnesota has now elected a new president and vice president, a new U.S. Senator, and member of congress. In addition, we have elected many new faces to represent us in the state legislature. These leaders face an enormous economic crisis that threatens our communities and future. We have seen a dramatic increase in home foreclosures, a historic state government deficit, loss of retirement savings by a declining stock market, and substantial increases in unemployment. The task of solving our problems are daunting, but not impossible.

While our state and country grapple with the changes and challenges that lie ahead, one thing remains steadfast—Minnesotans continue to answer the call to serve and defend our country. Over the past two years, over 12,000 Minnesota National Guard, Reserves, and active duty soldiers have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations across the globe. Their commitment and sacrifice have touched nearly every single person in this state.

During the 2008 election season, the Office of the Secretary of State launched its "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" initiative to raise awareness of the service of our men and women in uniform and their ongoing protection of our democracy and our right to vote. Nearly 80,000 Minnesotans participated in the program. Some participants posted special tributes on the Office of the Secretary of State website. This volume includes many of these tributes to veterans by their loved ones. These veteran tributes are either from a Minnesotan or about a resident of our state. I encourage all Minnesotans to visit www.sos.state.mn.us and take to a moment to read all of these touching dedications.

In 2009, we celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. While leading this nation through some of its darkest years, he summoned the country to service, calling on Americans to build a better nation upon a foundation secured by the service and sacrifice of our soldiers. The final words of his second inaugural address seem especially timely in addressing the task ahead we face as a state and as a nation: "Let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves and with all nations."

This edition of the Blue Book is dedicated to the brave men and women in the armed services who protect us and through their service demonstrate our continuing commitment to the principles of democracy.



Mark Ritchie

Minnesota World War II Memorial Dedication



Photo by Tom Olmshied, Photographer, MN House of Representatives

Over 25,000 Minnesotans honored World War II veterans at the dedication of the World War II Memorial, at the State Capitol on June 9, 2007. This picture was taken as the over 5,000 World War II veterans who attended saluted their nation, state and fellow veterans.



***In honor of Richard Young, Navy—Served in World War II Seabees**

Hometown: Rochester, New York

Submitted by Susan Young of Forest Lake, Minnesota, October 31, 2008

My Dad talked very little about his service experience, however, he made sure that I knew that voting was privilege and an obligation that he and his friends sacrificed to protect for me. He helped me register to vote on my 18th birthday. He made sure that I understood all sides of ballot issues or that I had done my homework to decide which candidate I would support by quizzing me on WHY I was making that decision. He never disagreed with my decisions. The one time that I failed to vote I received the longest and most emotional lecture that I ever received from him, referencing his friends that didn't come home from the Pacific, his friends that did who were changed, and his service. He stated that voting was the honor and the duty that I owed them, and I could engage in protests, wave signs on TV, and argue with him about elected officials and public policies. But if I ever did not vote again I could stop coming home, forever. I miss him and vote in his honor:

*Veteran tributes throughout this book were submitted by Minnesotans or by individuals honoring Minnesotans who serve or have served in uniform.

Foreword

The Blue Book received its name by definition of content, not its cover color. *Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms* explains the term Blue Book as, "a printed book containing the names of all persons holding office under the Government of the United States."

The *Minnesota Blue Book* is published biennially in odd-numbered years under the direction of the Secretary of State. The 2009-2010 edition contains statistical, historical, and constitutional information about the State of Minnesota. It also provides information on state, federal, and local government elected officials and agencies.

I would like to thank all of the state, federal and local government officials, state agency, judicial and legislative staff, and the Office of the Secretary of State staff who have contributed to the 2009-2010 edition.

Mark Ritchie
Minnesota Secretary of State

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