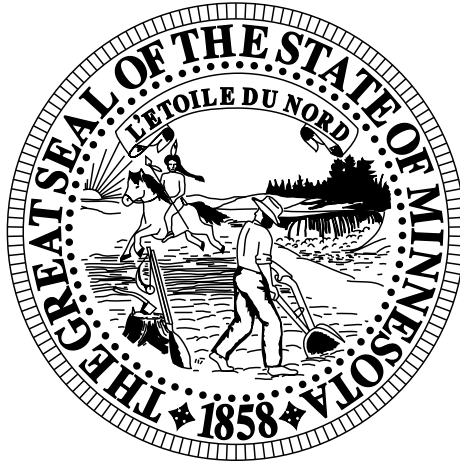


Minnesota



Legislative Manual

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Dedication of Blue Book

To the People of Minnesota:

I'm honored to present the 2017-2018 edition of the Minnesota Legislative Manual - also known as the "Blue Book." While the Blue Book is a comprehensive guide to our government in Minnesota, it's far more than just a listing of offices, names, and election results. It also contains information about Minnesota's history, culture, institutions, and identity. Since my days as a student, I've been a regular user of the Blue Book and I hope this edition will continue to be a trusted resource for people all over Minnesota, as it has been since 1874.

I'm proud to dedicate this edition of the Blue Book to the men and women who worked on the historic restoration of the Minnesota Capitol Building. They did a truly outstanding job, working hard under challenging conditions, over a long time, to return our Capitol to its rightful place as one of Minnesota's most treasured places. Their accomplishment and attention to detail will outlive them.

Designed by world renowned architect Cass Gilbert (U.S. Supreme Court Building) and featuring sculptures from Daniel Chester French (Lincoln Memorial) our Capitol has been the center of state government and an architectural jewel since it opened in 1905. But in recent years it was showing its age and was badly in need of a major renovation - both inside and out. The structure of the entire building was in disrepair, marble crumbled, roofs leaked, paint peeled, and artwork faded. In other ways the building was simply behind the times. There was too little space for the public and too little access for people with disabilities.

The renovation project, lasting over three years at a cost of \$310 million, made a great building even greater. The updated Capitol includes a refurbished exterior, many new and expanded public spaces, more elevators, additional restrooms, and meticulously restored works of art. The renovation led to the temporary relocation of the governor, the Senate, and others who call the building home, but the result was well worth it.

The revival of our Capitol was the work of many people, all of whom deserve thanks. First and foremost are the hundreds of laborers who worked on site. They put their hands, hearts, and sweat into the project. Also crucial were staff from the Department of Administration and the Minnesota Historical Society for planning and executing the project. Finally, legislators deserve credit for supporting the project on a bipartisan basis.

As a way to highlight the Capitol renovation, and to give thanks to the people who made it possible, this edition of the Blue Book features a special section of photographs showing various stages of the restoration as well as some photographs from the original construction of the building in the early 1900s which provide the viewer with a unique "before and after" perspective of the Capitol. Special thanks to award-winning Minnesota photographer Tom Olmscheid for providing my office with access to his wonderful visual record.

The best way to pay tribute to the renovated Capitol is to visit it. I encourage all Minnesotans to see the restored building for themselves. The Capitol is the Peoples' House. It doesn't exist just for elected officials. It's there for you. It's a symbol of our democracy, but it's also for public use; for tours, for a piece of history, for celebrations, and for advocacy. We're fortunate to have a Capitol building that is both spectacular and accessible. Elevated and grounded. We're also blessed to live in a state where so many people came together on such an important project of lasting value, significance, and beauty that will continue to serve Minnesotans for generations to come.

Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



Reader's Note:

Throughout the 2017-2018 Legislative Manual readers will come across historical photos of the construction of the Minnesota State Capitol from 1896 to 1905. These images were discovered by a Minnesotan named Lloyd Jackson, who came across an old photo album in the 1950s in a pile of garbage at Pig's Eye Landfill. Jackson showed the album to his family and then put it in his attic where it sat for decades, according to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Jackson died in 2007 and never knew he had “one of the most comprehensive visual records of the [Capitol construction] project in existence.” The album was acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society in 2015 and the 275-photographs were digitized and made available online in December 2016. We decided to publish a sampling of those photos and we hope you enjoy them.

Also in this edition of the Legislative Manual is a collection of photos—taken by photographer Tom Olmscheid—that chronicle the 2013-2017 restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol. A special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this section as visually appealing and informative as possible for readers, including Tom Olmscheid, the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Administration, JE Dunn Construction, HGA Architects and Engineers, MOCA Systems, and Cost, Planning & Management International (CPMI).

To learn more about Minnesota's Capitol, see these resources:

Minnesota Historical Society: mnhs.org/capitol

Who Built Our Capitol? - University of MN Labor Education Service: whobuiltourcapitol.org

Cass Gilbert Society: cassgilbertsociety.org

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