

NONPARTISAN CAREERS AT THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

Nonpartisan staff fill vital roles at the Minnesota legislature, providing service to all members and to the public. We hope this overview of the nonpartisan legislative offices inspires you to explore the rewarding careers available at the legislature.

How is the legislature organized and when does it meet?

The Minnesota legislature consists of two constitutional bodies—the House of Representatives and the Senate. A separate body, under the authority of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC), coordinates certain shared activities of the House and Senate, and serves as the umbrella for the joint offices, legislative commissions, and other boards. Collectively, the House, Senate, and LCC offer a variety of nonpartisan career opportunities.

The Senate and House meet in regular session each biennium. In odd-numbered years, the regular session begins in early January, and in even-numbered years, it begins on a date agreed to by both bodies, generally early in the year. In both years, regular session ends in May. The legislature also meets in special session at other times of the year, when called by the governor. The seasonality of the legislature drives the work of most legislative staff, with many departments having their busiest times towards the end of session, when evening and weekend work may be required.

What is the difference between nonpartisan staff and partisan staff?

Nonpartisan staff provide unbiased service to members of any party, while partisan staff provide service under the direction of party leadership. Nonpartisan and partisan staff have different roles, but they often work together to advance the work of the legislature. The nonpartisan mission of the offices described in this publication requires staff to be able to set aside their personal views on highly contentious political topics and be comfortable engaging in professional work with elected officials, members of the public, and others who might have strongly held, but contrary beliefs on these issues. This expectation of nonpartisanship also extends into a staff person's activities outside of the workplace.

How can I learn more about these career opportunities?

We encourage you to reach out to the offices listed below with questions as you explore your career interests. Individual postings can be found on the legislature's website at <https://www.leg.mn.gov/leg/jobs>

House of Representatives

- Chief Clerk
- House Research Department
- Fiscal Analysis
- Public Information Services
- Sergeant's Office
- Human Resources
- Budget and Accounting

Senate

- Secretary of the Senate, oversees these offices:
 - Senate Desk
 - Engrossing
 - Journal
 - Index
 - Information Services
 - Media Services
 - Human Resources
 - Sergeant at Arms
 - Senate Information Systems
 - Fiscal Services
- Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis

LCC, Joint Offices and Commissions

- Office of the Legislative Auditor
- Legislative Reference Library
- Office of the Revisor
- Legislative Budget Office
- Legislative Coordinating Commission
- Staffed Commissions:
 - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 - Legislative-Citizen Commission on Outdoor Resources
 - Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement