



## Tina Smith: A Strong Leader for Minnesota

In 2014, Tina Smith was elected by the people of Minnesota to serve as our state's 48<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor. As Lieutenant Governor, Tina focused her efforts on building an economy that works for all Minnesotans, and worked across geographic and party lines to deliver real results for the people of Minnesota. Tina traveled the state, holding meetings and town halls, visiting Minnesota businesses, and collecting the best ideas from across the state to bring back to Saint Paul.

### Expanded Education Opportunities for All

As Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith worked with Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature to secure significant new investments in education and early learning opportunities for Minnesota kids. These investments will help close achievement gaps, and ensure tens of thousands of kids get a great start in school and life. Tina also worked with Governor Dayton on a new anti-bullying law to better protect LGBTQ students and ensure everyone has a safe environment to learn and grow.

- **\$257 Million for Early Learning** – Minnesota invested \$257 million in new funding for early learning opportunities since 2011. These investments fund opportunities like preschool scholarships and voluntary, school-based preKindergarten for families across Minnesota.
- **22,500 Kids** – Thanks to these and other investments, 22,500 kids attended preschool through early learning scholarships, voluntary school-based preKindergarten programs, and school readiness programs across Minnesota in 2017.
- **No Excuses, No Exceptions** – Tina worked with Governor Dayton to increase investments in E-12 education every year since 2011 – no excuses, no exceptions. In total, Minnesota has invested \$1.9 billion in new funding for stronger schools across the state.
- **Paid Back \$2.8 Billion to Minnesota Schools** – Tina worked with Governor Dayton to pay back \$2.8 billion owed to our schools, to make sure local school districts could continue to provide excellent educations to Minnesota kids.
- **Safe and Supportive Schools for All** – In 2014, Tina worked with Governor Dayton and Minnesota legislators to create a new law that better protects LGBTQ students from bullying, and ensures all Minnesota kids have safer and more supportive environments to learn and grow.

### Worked with Minnesota Farmers

From Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith worked hand-in-hand with Minnesota farmers to make sure state government is responsive to their voices and concerns.

- **More Affordable, Accessible Health Care** – Tina met with Minnesota farmers and other Greater Minnesota residents and businesses to hear first-hand about the high cost of health care. Taking this feedback, Tina championed a new “MinnesotaCare Buy-In” proposal to give Minnesotans a better, more affordable option for health coverage. If passed, the proposal would give this new option to every Minnesotan living in every county across the state.
- **Made Farm Taxes More Fair** – Last year, Tina heard from farmers that high property taxes, combined with low crop prices and high land values, were putting a pinch on farm families. Tina took this feedback to Saint Paul, and worked with a bipartisan group of legislators to provide a tax credit to make property taxes more fair for Minnesota farmers, while supporting bonds for local school improvements.
- **Personal Visits to Minnesota Farms** – As Lieutenant Governor, Tina made personal visits to Minnesota farms – in addition to dozens of community and town hall meetings – to see firsthand large- and small-scale dairy, corn, poultry, and soybean operations. These visits helped inform Tina’s efforts to represent farmers’ interests, and rural economies, at the State Capitol.

## **Combated Opioid Addiction**

As Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith worked with Native American communities, health care providers, and law enforcement officials to combat opioid addiction through a coordinated response that aims to prevent addiction before it begins, provide people with the treatment they need, and respond to emergencies and keep illegal opioids off the streets.

- **Doctor-Led Guidelines to Cut Risk of Addiction** – In December 2017, Tina announced new guidelines – developed by doctors and community partners – to cut the risk of opioid addiction before it begins. This first-of-its kind effort in Minnesota was made possible by bipartisan legislation.
- **\$18 Million in Federal Grants to Combat Addiction and Availability** – Tina worked to secure \$18 million in federal grants to address racial disparities and the availability of illicit opioids in Native American communities, coordinate opioid treatment and recovery efforts throughout the state, and better support law enforcement efforts to crack down on the illegal sale and distribution of opioids in Minnesota.
- **“Penny a Pill” Opioid Stewardship Program** – Tina worked with a group of bipartisan legislators to push a new proposal which would require opioid manufacturers to pay a “penny a pill” fee, which would generate \$42 million every two years. If passed, these funds would be dedicated exclusively to opiate abuse prevention and treatment in Minnesota.

## **Advanced Minnesota’s Clean Energy Economy**

Tina Smith has been a champion for the development of Minnesota’s renewable energy resources. As Lieutenant Governor, Tina pushed for additional progress on renewable energy for the health of Minnesota’s people, environment, and economy. Under Tina’s leadership, Minnesota made significant progress to advance renewable energy.

- **Pushed for 50 Percent Renewable Energy by 2030** – In 2017, Tina announced a new bipartisan effort to increase Minnesota’s Renewable Energy Standard (RES). If passed, Minnesota’s RES would increase from the current standard of 25 percent of Minnesota energy coming from renewable sources by 2025, to a new goal of 50 percent by 2030.

- **57,000 Clean Energy Jobs** – Under the leadership of Tina and Governor Dayton, renewable energy usage increased from 5 percent in 2011 to 22 percent in 2016. Today, Minnesota has more than 57,000 clean energy jobs in communities across the state.
- **Leading by Example** – In 2016, Tina announced a new partnership with Xcel Energy to ensure that 33 percent of the base energy used at the State Capitol Complex comes from renewable sources. The program now serves a template for other government customers to purchase utility scale renewable energy packages. And earlier this year, Tina worked with Governor Dayton on a new executive action that will improve energy efficiency and reduce water usage to improve state government efficiency and save taxpayer money.

## **Fought for Minnesota Workers and Families**

As Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith worked to build an economy that works for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota. Tina worked to enact policies that strengthen protections for working families and expand economic opportunity across our state.

- **Raised Minimum Wage** – As Chief of Staff, Tina helped shepherd a minimum wage increase through the Minnesota Legislature that benefitted more than 325,000 of Minnesota’s lowest-wage workers. Importantly, thanks to Tina, the minimum wage will now rise with inflation to ensure the wages of working people keep up with the rising cost of living.
- **Secured Paid Parental Leave for 34,000 State Employees** – Tina and Governor Dayton led efforts to expand access to paid parental leave for Minnesota families, securing the benefit for 34,000 state employees. Tina also advocated for legislation that would make paid sick and family leave available to all Minnesotans.
- **Fought to Crack Down on Wage Theft** – Tina advocated for legislation that would help crack down on wage theft, when employers do not pay workers what they owe them for the work they have done. It is estimated that wage theft costs Minnesota workers approximately \$11.9 million a year in unpaid earnings. If passed, the legislation would provide state government additional tools to investigate and stop wage theft.
- **\$3.5 Billion in Infrastructure Investments to Create Jobs** – As Lieutenant Governor, Tina toured the state to see proposals for new infrastructure projects – from higher education buildings, to local water treatment plants. Working with Governor Dayton, more than \$3.5 billion has been invested in infrastructure projects across the state since 2011.

## **Expanded Equity and Access to Opportunity**

Throughout her time as Chief of Staff and Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith drove equity initiatives at the State of Minnesota to make sure Minnesota is a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

- **A State Government that Better Reflects the Diversity of its People** – Thanks to Tina’s leadership, state government made a commitment to more than double the percentage of employees of color – with a goal of 20 percent by 2018. The State of Minnesota’s workforce has since gone from just 8 percent workers of color in January 2011, to 12.3 percent today, with more progress made every day to build a state government that reflects the people it serves.
- **Advancing Racial Equity** – As Lieutenant Governor, Tina helped secure a historic \$35 million investment in 2016 to reduce racial and economic disparities. These investments

are an important step toward eliminating the serious disparities facing people of color in Minnesota communities.

- **Economic Opportunities for Minnesota Women** – As Lieutenant Governor, Tina led an effort with the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, to recruit talented young women – especially women of color, Native American women, and those who identify as LGBTQ – to introduce them to mentorship and professional opportunities. This effort aims to empower a generation of young women leaders to challenge traditional obstacles to opportunity.

### **Connected Greater Minnesota with High-Speed Internet**

Tina Smith has been one of Minnesota’s biggest advocates for rural high-speed internet, traveling the state from Roseau to Redwood Falls to advocate for the essential infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Tina understands that it’s not fair when almost 20 percent of Greater Minnesota households don’t have the same high-speed internet connections as their friends and family in the cities. Under Tina’s leadership, Minnesota made significant progress to expand high speed internet access to nearly 40,000 homes and businesses in Greater Minnesota.

- **Invested \$85 Million in High Speed Internet** – Minnesota invested a total of \$85 million, to connect 33,852 households, 5,189 businesses, and 300 community institutions to broadband internet since 2014. In total, Tina and Governor Dayton proposed more than \$210 million for rural broadband infrastructure.
- **Expanded Internet Access for Minnesota Students** – In 2017, Tina announced new state grants that will help 12 school districts provide students with the high-speed internet connections needed to complete homework and access other online learning opportunities. This funding allows school districts to equip buses with wireless hotspots, enabling students to complete homework while commuting.

### **Worked to Build “America’s City for Health”**

As Chief of Staff, Tina Smith was instrumental in guiding the Destination Medical Center (DMC) proposal through the Minnesota Legislature. The DMC is a public-private partnership between state and local government, Mayo Clinic, and private businesses, to ensure Rochester, Minnesota remains “America’s City for Health.” Tina has served as the Chair of the DMC board, where she has led Minnesota’s largest-ever economic development project – a project expected to create 30,000 new jobs in southeast Minnesota, and attract more than \$5 billion in private investment during the next 20 years.

- **\$300 Million in Private Investment** – In 2017, the DMC project surpassed \$300 million in private investment, with 19 projects either proposed, under construction or completed, including the first phase of nearly two million square feet of innovative research space.
- **Over 1,000 Jobs Already Created** – The four active projects, including life science space, hotel, retail and housing in the DMC district will employ more than 1,000 construction workers.

### **Made State Government More Accessible to All Minnesotans**

As Chief of Staff and Lieutenant Governor, Tina Smith led the Administration’s efforts to make state government – a \$45 billion enterprise with over 34,000 employees – work better and be more accessible for all Minnesotans.

- **Made Government Work Better for People** – Under Tina’s leadership, Minnesota undertook more than 500 reform projects to streamline processes and be more accessible to all Minnesotans. Those efforts included an initiative to reduce document storage costs

by 20 percent, a program at the Pollution Control Agency to significantly reduce the time it takes to issue job-creating business permits, and reforms to child care licensing to ensure that 75 percent of all applications are reviewed within 120 days or less, up from just 31 percent before.

- **Best Run State** – Tina led efforts at the State of Minnesota to make government work better for Minnesotans. This progress was recognized by a new study published by USA Today, which named Minnesota the “Best Run State in America” in 2017, up from tenth place in the same study in 2012.
- **First-Stop Shop for Minnesota Businesses** – As Lieutenant Governor and Chief of Staff, Tina pushed for the creation of a new, first-stop shop for Minnesota businesses needing permits, grants, or other assistance from the state. The First Stop streamlines the process for financing, licensing, permitting, technical assistance and other resources that state agencies provide to businesses. By consolidating these functions, the resource helps new and expanding businesses more quickly complete regulatory requirements, allowing them to grow and hire more Minnesotans across the state.

### **Listened to Minnesotans across the State**

Tina Smith is focused on building an economy that works for all Minnesotans, everywhere in Minnesota. As Lieutenant Governor, Tina made it a priority to visit Minnesotans in every corner of the state.

- **Visiting Greater Minnesota More Than 190 Times in Three Years** – During her three years as Lieutenant Governor, Tina visited with residents of Greater Minnesota communities more than 190 times in every corner of the state, from Roseau to Red Wing.
- **Hands on Approach** – Tina took a hands on approach to understanding the challenges facing Minnesota communities – climbing into a sewer in Dennison to shine a light on the state’s aging clean water infrastructure, inspecting bridge conditions in Rochester, and surveying flood damage in Aitkin. Tina also visited 28 of Minnesota’s 66 State Parks, in an effort to encourage Minnesotans to get outside and boost tourism across the state.

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