



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'Étoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Better Incomes and Economic Opportunities

Budget for a Better Minnesota

Since 2011, Minnesota employers have added 286,500 new jobs, and our state is now consistently ranked among the best places in the country for businesses. But some Minnesotans are still being left behind in this economy. We can and must do more to ensure all Minnesotans, in every corner of Minnesota share in our state's prosperity, benefit from growing wages, and have greater economic security.

That is why Governor Dayton's Budget for a Better Minnesota would help to safeguard Minnesotans' incomes and create better economic opportunities for hard-working people. The Governor's budget would cut taxes for over 2 million Minnesotans and their families, protect the pensions of hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, ensure public employees are fairly compensated, and crack down on wage theft and predatory payday lending practices. It would also make needed investments in housing and high-speed internet infrastructure to help more Minnesotans tap the opportunity of the state's growing economy.

These investments and changes proposed by Governor Dayton would help ensure that Minnesota workers and their families share in the state's growing economic prosperity. To learn more about how Governor Dayton's proposals will benefit working Minnesotans and their families, read below.

Tax Cuts for Over 2 Million Minnesotans

Policy	Description
Cutting Taxes for Over 2 Million Minnesotans and Their Families	<p>Governor Dayton's Tax Bill would protect hundreds of thousands of Minnesota families from state tax increases caused by the 2017 Federal Tax Law enacted by President Trump and Republicans in Congress. More than that, the Governor's plan would cut taxes for over 2 million households – improving family budgets without risking the stability of our state's budget. His plan would separate our state income tax system from the federal government, giving Minnesota control over the fairness of our own taxes, and the stability of our revenues. And the Governor's plan would simplify and cut taxes by \$100 million for farmers and small businesses for their equipment expenses.</p> <p>To learn more about Governor Dayton's Tax Bill, CLICK HERE.</p>

Cracking Down on Wage Theft and Predatory Lending

Policy	Description
<p>Ensuring Minnesotans Receive the Wages They Have Earned</p>	<p>Wage theft occurs when employers do not pay workers what is owed to them for work already performed. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) estimates that over 39,000 Minnesota workers experience wage theft each year, averaging \$11.9 million of wages that are owed, but not paid to Minnesota workers. This year, the Governor is again proposing the Wage Theft Prevention Act to give DLI more tools to investigate and crack down on wage theft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Clear Wage Theft is Illegal – The Governor’s Wage Theft Prevention Act would establish a definition of wage theft and make clear that it is not only immoral, but also illegal. • Power of Subpoena – The Wage Theft Prevention Act would give the DLI investigators the power to subpoena documents. This power would help ensure the agency is able to compel production of records when employers refuse to submit them. • Empowering Workers with Information – Governor Dayton’s Wage Theft Prevention Act would require employers to provide certain information to employees at the start of employment, including employee rate of pay, the legal name of the employer, and the employer’s address and phone number. • Creating Stiffer Penalties – The Wage Theft Prevention Act would increase penalties from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for employers that fail to keep employment records, and for employers that willfully or repeatedly violate wage and hour laws. It also would create a criminal penalty (gross misdemeanor) when an employer fails to pay wages due in the total amount of \$10,000 or more. The commissioner also would be able to issue a citation and assess a monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 for failure to pay wages as a way to compel employers to correct the violation and pay back pay due to their employees. • Ensuring More Regular, Reliable Paychecks for Workers – Under current law, an employee could work 41 days without knowing whether they were going to be paid or not. Under the Wage Theft Prevention Act, the maximum number of days would be 31 at the start of employment and 16 days thereafter. • Protecting Against Retaliation – Governor Dayton’s Wage Theft Prevention Act would prohibit retaliation against employees who file complaints.
<p>Ending Unfair Lending Practices</p>	<p>Many Minnesotans with low incomes struggle to pay their living expenses, and often live paycheck to paycheck. When unexpected costs arise, some families are forced to rely on high-interest “payday” loans, which often carry interest rates of more than 200</p>

	<p>percent. These loans can plunge Minnesota’s most vulnerable families into cycles of debt. The Governor’s proposal would close loopholes that allow payday lenders to charge interest rates much higher than intended under state law. It also would limit borrowers to no more than four short-term loans in a 12-month period.</p>
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Investing in Affordable Housing and High-Speed Internet Access

Policy	Description
<p>Ensuring Access to Safe, Affordable Housing</p>	<p>More than 554,000 Minnesota households spend at least 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage payments. With Minnesotans spending a higher percentage of their incomes on housing, they have fewer resources for other essentials such as education, food, healthcare, and transportation.</p> <p>Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal would invest \$115 million to improve access to safe, affordable housing, and ensure public housing remains safe and healthy for its residents. These investments will build upon the work the Dayton Administration has done since 2011 to expand access to affordable housing, and support the work of the new Governor’s Task Force on Housing.</p> <p>To learn more about how the Governor’s 2018 Public Works Bill invests in strong communities and economies, CLICK HERE.</p>
<p>Expanding Access to Reliable, Affordable High Speed Internet</p>	<p>Since taking office, Governor Dayton has secured \$85.6 million for investments in high-speed internet infrastructure. This funding expanded access to broadband for 33,852 households, 5,189 businesses, and 300 community institutions, and leveraged \$110 million in matching investments. Today, thanks in part to the Governor’s investments, 88 percent of Minnesotans have access to broadband speeds that meet the 2022 goal. In 2011, only 56 percent of Minnesotans, largely in urban areas, had access to those speeds. This year, Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would invest an additional \$30 million to help another 11,000 households, businesses, and community institutions gain high-speed internet access so they can compete economically along with other Minnesota communities in the 21st Century.</p>

Ensuring Dignity and Fairness in the Workplace

Policy	Description
<p>Establishing an Independent Office to Investigate Harassment Complaints</p>	<p>A comprehensive review by Minnesota Management and Budget of sexual harassment procedures in the executive branch highlighted the need for new investments and policies to ensure that all state employees have a safe and supporting workplace, free of sexual and other harassment. In response to recommendations in the report,</p>

	<p>Governor Dayton has proposed a \$6.4 million investment to create a new office for reporting and investigating allegations of harassment. The independent office would ensure that investigations are conducted by fully trained staff and that effective, unbiased procedures are consistently employed to ensure the safety and dignity of every state employee.</p>
<p>Ensuring that Minnesota Workers Receive the Retirement Benefits They Have Rightly Earned</p>	<p>Immediate action must be taken to ensure Minnesota’s public employee pension plans remain solvent, and that promises are kept to Minnesota workers and retirees. This year, Governor Dayton supports bipartisan legislation that would ensure these plans remain healthy and capable of meeting the needs of retired teachers and state and local government employees for decades to come.</p> <p>Governor Dayton’s plan would ask current employees, retirees, and the state budget to share the burden of ensuring the long-term solvency of the plans. The State of Minnesota would contribute \$27 million in 2019 and \$114 million in 2020-21 to stabilize the public employee pension plans. In return, current employees would be required to increase their contributions and current retirees would see changes to their cost of living adjustments in future years. Making these adjustments now will help ensure that more drastic and painful changes are not needed in future years.</p>
<p>Providing Fair Wages and Benefits to Hard-Working Minnesota State Employees</p>	<p>Minnesota is blessed with talented, hard-working state employees who provide services that Minnesotans, their families, and businesses depend upon every day. Last year, Minnesota Management and Budget negotiated two-year contracts with state employees that provide modest wage increases that track with the labor market. The contracts are critical to retaining talented workers in Minnesota’s tight labor market, where there are more jobs than available workers.</p> <p>During the 2018 Legislative Session, Governor Dayton will continue to urge Minnesota Legislators to ratify these contracts, providing state employees the compensation they have earned and ensuring that Minnesotans have access to the services they need. These contracts would be paid out of existing state agency budgets and would not require any additional investment out of the state budget.</p>

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To learn more about other proposals included in Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota, [CLICK HERE](#).