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Capitol Link

Appointments to Committees Begin in Minnesota House

The Minnesota Speaker of the House expects to have all the committee membership requests from House members of both caucuses by today, November 30.

The Speaker then has the duty to assign members of both caucuses to the 27 committees in a "proportionate representation" in correlation to the outcome of the recent election. This task may be completed by the end of the week.

Minnesota Senate Committee Appointments

The Minnesota Senate's rules for committee appointments are similar to those of the House. As of November 29, Senate leadership had not disclosed any information.

Tax Bill Passes Early?

Perhaps it's just hope, but there are conversations that the Minnesota State Legislature might pass the language of the 2016 Tax Bill or something very similar, early in the 2017 Session. If that were the case, ICBM would have several successes. They would include:

- First \$100,000 market value of businesses statewide would be exempt from the state "general" property tax.
- Residency determinations used to determine if individuals owe Minnesota income taxes would no longer consider the location of financial and legal services. Minnesota's community banks could continue to serve customers moving out of state and that service would be prohibited from being used by the state Department of Revenue, and courts to determine residency.
- \$30 million would be dedicated as grants to new and existing businesses that decide to locate or expand in very low-income areas. Community banks, community development entities, and private investors working together, would be eligible if plans included locating the project where income levels are at the poverty level or less.

House Committee Structure Changes

The committee structure for the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions

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was completed last week in both the House and Senate. There wasn't much change in the Senate, but in the House, there were some changes pointing towards future priorities.

Child Care

The House added a subcommittee on Childcare Access and Affordability. This issue became significant in both state and national elections last Fall. The costs of childcare can often resemble a monthly mortgage payment.

Mining

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee now oversees a subcommittee on "mining, forestry and tourism." Mining hasn't been in the name of a committee for a long time, if ever. One would think the PolyMet mine proposal may get some air time. However, since PolyMet has been so controversial, it's likely the caucus is looking to the subcommittee to review general policy and rules, not a particular project.

The Senate changed some committee names, but they appear to be more of a reshuffling of the deck than changes pointing towards a new policy.

Believe It or Not

The 2016 elections are over and believe it or not, the 2018 elections have begun, officially at least. Two candidates have already filed to seek office in that election.

Office of the Attorney General

Ryan Winkler of Golden Valley, is a lawyer, DFLer, and past member of the House of Representatives. Winkler filed November 16, 2016 for the office of the Attorney General. That office, of course, is currently held by another DFLer, Attorney General Lori Swanson. Winkler believes Swanson will seek the Office of Governor. If she does, Winkler says he will run. If she doesn't run for Governor and seeks another term as Minnesota's Attorney General, Winkler has said he would not challenge her.

First Candidate for Governor

Representative Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, filed November 17 and became the first to file as a candidate for Governor in the 2018 elections. Doing so gives her the opportunity to get ahead of her DFL competition. It also allows her to create a campaign committee and begin raising money for her race. She was chosen by her caucus to be the House Majority Leader when the DFL controlled the House in 2013-2014. She has good experience and knows the issues.

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[Register](#) now for ICBM's [Day at the Capitol](#) on January 19.

The day's activities will begin and end at The Saint Paul Hotel.

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Sarah Janecek will be speaking at the event. Janecek has been involved in Minnesota politics for more than 20 years as a journalist, writer, campaign adviser, Republican activist, lobbyist, and political commentator. She is often asked by state and national media for a Republican perspective on issues and events. Proud to be a Golden Gopher, Sarah earned degrees in journalism, political science, and law from the University of Minnesota.

Information on hotel reservations for the event can be found [here](#).

Legislative or political questions? Contact David Skilbred, ICBM Vice President of Government Relations, at dskilbred@icbm.org or 651-789-3983.

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