



Mid-Session Update

Session Update

The legislature just completed the first and second committee deadlines on March 22. These deadlines cleared policy bills out of committees so the legislature can begin work on omnibus spending bills when they return on April 2. They will be back in session for a week and then break for the Eid holiday on April 9.

The Minnesota Legislature budgets on a biennial basis. Every odd year the legislature sets the budget for the next two years. In 2023, the legislature passed a \$70 billion two-year budget, a nearly \$20B or 40% increase over the previous budget.

On March 22, Legislative Leadership and Governor Walz released joint budget targets for any supplemental spending by budget committees. These targets are the spending amount each committee chair may appropriate in the omnibus spending bills they will release from their committees by April 19.



Democrat Leaders Set the Budget Framework for the 2024 Session

The Trifecta of DFL leadership, Governor Walz, Speaker Hortman and Senator Murphy, have agreed to budget targets of \$477 million. Although the House approved a target for \$512.5 million which is over the agreed to amount. The surplus is close to \$3.7 billion. But leaders have some concerns too much spending could leave a deficit in the coming biennium. Legislators facing election in November, want the message to be of support for families and workers; not creating a deficit.

To see the full agreed to targets by committees, they can be viewed [here](#).

Fast Facts:

MN has no limit on the number of bills that can be introduced in a session.

This legislature has already broken the biennial record with 7 weeks still to go.

House: 5174

Senate: 5225

Last biennium.

House: 4905

Senate: 4610

Governor Walz

On March 18, 2024, Governor Walz released [his supplemental budget](#), with \$227 million in recommendations. The Governor gave his Minnesota State of the State address in Owatonna on March 26. The speech highlighted legislative accomplishments passed in last year's session, and the importance of passing a bonding bill this session. Republican minority leaders responded that Walz should focus on "fixes" to last year's bills, rather than continuing his agenda.

Mid-Session Update – Budget & Capital Bonding



Session Timeline

Friday, April 19 – Committees in both bodies must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

Monday, May 20 – Adjournment. All bills must be passed by Midnight on May 19, as no bills can pass on the final legislative day of the biennium.

Finance and Policy deadlines do not apply to the House Capital Investment Division; the House Taxes, Ways and Means, or Rules and Legislative Administration committees; nor the Senate Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes or Rules and Administration committees.



Capital Bonding Update

The \$3.7 billion surplus will support a general obligation bonding (or borrowing) bill of about \$900 million. A borrowing bill that includes general obligation bonding dollars requires a supermajority to pass--other spending bills require a simple majority of votes to pass.

A supermajority means republican votes are required to pass the bonding bill. This gives the republicans leverage even in a trifecta of democrat control. The two parties will need to work together to fund a set of projects that will swing minority caucus votes from 'no' to 'yes' by May 20, or leave without a bonding bill.

Questions about the session? Contact us!



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