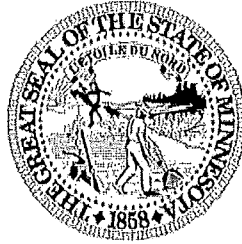


# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



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SEP 21 2020

**Governor Tim Walz** President of the Senate

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**John Cowles**  
Congressional District 4

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Member**

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees**

Effective: September 22, 2020

Expires: June 30, 2026

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed September 17, 2020.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

Reappointment

Filed on September 17, 2020  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon

**Part I: Position Sought**

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**Agency Name:** Board Of Trustees Of The Minnesota State Colleges And Universities System  
**Position:** Member Congressional District

**Part II: Applicant Information**

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**Name:** John Cowles  
**Phone:** (612) 359-9449  
**County:** Ramsey  
**In House District:** 64A  
**State House District:** 4  
**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

**Part III: Appending Documentation**

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**Cover Letter and Resume**

**Upload File Type**

**Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)**

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	
Answer:	No Answer

**Part V: Signature**

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**Signature:** John (Jay) Cowles  
**Date:** 3/11/2020 11:50:28 AM

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President of the Senate

**John (Jay) Cowles**

475 Grand Hill, Saint Paul MN 55102  
Office 612-359-9449; Mobile 612-670-0191  
Jay@knudsenowles.com

September 21, 2020

Appointments

c/o Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State (via Madelyn Nelson)

I am writing this letter to complete my application for re-appointment as a trustee of Minnesota State colleges and universities, and to express my desire to continue serving this great public higher education system on behalf of the students and citizens of Minnesota.

Over the past six years that I have served Minnesota State as a trustee, I have developed an even greater appreciation for the crucial role that this institution plays, and for the talent and dedication of the employees and leadership throughout the system. Our thirty-seven colleges and universities are deeply embedded throughout Minnesota in their communities and regions, and play an essential role in the economic, community and cultural life of Minnesotans. Our faculty, staff, and leadership draw from talent throughout the state and country attracted by our mission, values, and the performance of our institutions. Our focus keeps the success of our students --- all of our students --- as the overarching measure of our institutional performance, and we are determined to provide equitable access and success for students from every background in Minnesota.

Over the past six years, I have worked diligently in my role as trustee to listen and learn the many dimensions of our unique system. I love visiting the campuses when opportunity arises, have attended many national conferences, and have maintained a 100% attendance record at trustee meetings. I have served on most every committee, served as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, and been the board Vice Chair for two years before being elected Chair last year (and re-elected for FY20-21).

My admiration for the mission of Minnesota State, the opportunities it offers to its students and communities, and the commitment and talent of the people of Minnesota State has only deepened over the past six years. I would be humbly honored to continue serving for another term.

Sincerely,



John (Jay) Cowles

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President of the Senate

**JOHN (JAY) COWLES**  
475 Grand Hill, Saint Paul MN 55102  
office 612-359-9449; fax 612-359-9498; cell 612-670-0194  
[jay@knudsenowles.com](mailto:jay@knudsenowles.com)

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**LAWRENCE CREEK, LLC (Minneapolis, MN)**

*Managing Director* (1998 - present).

Created organizational concept for and developed investor interest in this family investment company. Manage outside legal, accounting, investment advisory and fund manager services to provide superior investment advice and opportunities to investors in a cost-efficient administrative structure. Organize regular communications to and meetings with investors and advisors to ensure timely discussion and decision-making.

President of the Senate

**UNITY AVENUE ASSOCIATES, LLC (Minneapolis, MN)**

*President* (2006 - present); *Vice President* (1998 - 2015).

Provide management oversight to this family office. Staff of five delivers administrative and other services to family members and Lawrence Creek.

**WOMEN'S PRO SOFTBALL LEAGUE (WPSL) (Denver CO)**

*Chairman* (1995 - 2004); *President and CEO* (1993 - 1995); *Board member* (1991 - 2004).

With my father, sister, and several private investors, developed the business model, hired staff, and launched operations for this start-up women's professional sports league featuring elite athletes in this popular collegiate sport. Served as CEO during a period of transition from "founders" leadership to more experienced sports marketing and operational leadership. As Chair, recruited investors, Board members, and senior staff, as well as managed relations between these stakeholders. WPSL grew to six teams playing a summer league schedule along with select exhibition games against Olympic and other elite teams. League play was televised on ESPN2 numerous times each year, and WPSL was named as an Official Development Partner by Major League Baseball. The league was sold in 2004 to team owners, and continues today as National Pro Fastpitch (NPF).

**COWLES MEDIA CO. (Minneapolis, MN)**

*Chairman* (1993 - 1998); *Vice Chairman* (1991 - 1993); *Board member* (1991 - 1998); *Trustee*, Cowles Family Voting Trust (1991 - 1998); *Vice President, Director of Operations* (Sentinel Publishing Co., Denver CO) (1988 - 1991); *Director of Planning* (1985 - 1988).

Held staff, operating management, and governance roles in this family-owned diversified media company that included the largest Minnesota newspaper, the *Star Tribune*. Led strategic planning which resulted in purchase of *Scottsdale (AZ) Progress* newspaper and a portfolio of "enthusiast" magazines (e.g. *Fly Fisherman*, *Civil War Times*).

Restructured struggling weekly newspaper group in Denver, CO, managing all operations except sales. Led corporate transition in family leadership to third generation, and shaped dialogue between family owners, management, and the board of directors over a number of years. Oversaw consensus decision to sell the company in 1997, and participated closely in the legal and banking process that led to the sale in 1998 for \$1.4 billion.

**UNITED SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS INC. (New York, NY)**

*Director of Internal Operations (1985); Director of Financial Analysis (1983 - 1985).*  
Member of finance team that successfully raised \$70 million in private equity for this startup national television distribution company competing in the emerging direct-broadcast-by-satellite (DBS) segment.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CABLE COMMUNICATIONS (Boston, MA)**

*Consultant (1980 - 1981).*

Helped develop and implement initial cable television franchise agreement.

**CLASSIC PRINTERS (Prescott, AZ)**

*Chairman (1975 - 1997); President and CEO (1975-1979).*

Bought this unprofitable small business during a break from undergraduate studies. In four years as President managed the company to profitability, and won several national graphics awards for quality. Brought in a minority-investor as an active partner, and resumed my college studies. Company remained successful and was sold in 1997.

**CURRENT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities:** Trustee, Chair.

**Itasca Project:** Founding Member; Working Team member; Co-Chair of Transportation Initiative.

**Green Minneapolis:** Board member, Vice Chair.

**Minneapolis Downtown Council:** Board, Executive Committee member.

**Mississippi Park Connection:** Board member, former Chair.

**Northside Achievement Zone:** Finance Committee member.

**Center for Transportation Studies (U of MN):** Advisory Council member, former Chair.

**Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs (U of MN):** Advisory Council member.

**PAST BOARD MEMBERSHIPS**

Saint Paul Foundation (Chair), Minnesota Community Foundation (Chair), Minneapolis Foundation, Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce, Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation (Chair), Capitol City Partnership, Friends of the Saint Paul Library, Open Book (Chair), Minnesota Center for Book Arts (Chair), Guthrie Theater, Cowles Media Foundation, Headwaters Fund, Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation, Prescott College (Interim Chair).

**EDUCATION**

President of the Senate

**HARVARD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
**(Cambridge, MA)**

MBA 1983

General management curriculum, with a focus on strategic planning and new ventures. Founded student club on social responsibilities of corporate leadership.

**HARVARD COLLEGE (Cambridge, MA)**

BA 1981

Cum Laude in General Studies; majored in Government. Elected to AD Club. Began studies in 1972 following a "gap year" of work (Canada, France). Requested a leave of absence beginning 1974 to attend Prescott College, and then to operate Classic Printers,

before returning in 1979 to complete my degree. Worked in Mayor's Office of Cable Communications while completing last two years of college.

**PRESCOTT COLLEGE (Prescott, AZ)**

1974-1975

Pursued fieldwork in anthropology, and general curriculum. Founded school newspaper, and elected to Program Council.

**BLAKE SCHOOL (Hopkins, MN)**

1971

Cum Laude.

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# Search Public Officials Reporting

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## Statement of economic interest for a public official

Official: Cowles, John, III

Login to Follow (<https://logon.cfb.mn.gov/sso/login?returnTo=https://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/official/11161>) ↗

Statement last updated: 9/30/2020

Occupation: Retired

Employer: Retired

475 Grand Hill

St Paul, MN 55102

## Positions held

Agency	Position held	Appointment date	Appointment ends	Appointment authority
<a href="https://reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/agency/71400000/">Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/agency/71400000/)</a>	Member - Congressional District 4	9/22/2020	6/30/2026	Governor

## Sources of income

None reported

## Business or professional activity categories

None reported

## Securities

Name of security

Altum Credit Fund, L.P.

CRG RE Partners III, L.P.

Neon Liberty Emerging Markets Fund, LP

Park Street Capital NRF II, LP

Park Street Capital V, LP

Park Street Capital VII, LP

Park Street Capital X, LP

Name of security

Carlyle PE Access Fund IV, L.P.

Graylock Global Opportunity Fund, LP

Park Street Capital IX, LP

Park Street Capital NRF III, LP

Park Street Capital VI, LP

Park Street Capital VIII, LP

Partners Group PE M.L.P.

## Name of security

Partners Group RE Secondary L.P.

Riverside Capital Appreciation Fund, L.P.

Sofia Angel Fund II, LLC

Summit Partners Growth Equity Fund IX-A, L.P.

## Name of security

Pentwater Event Fund LLC

Sallient Energy Infrastructure M.L.P.

Stepstone Real Estate Partners III, L.P.

TVM Life Science Innovation II Fund, L.P.

## Real property

None reported

## Pari-mutuel horse racing interests

None reported