

# Background Readings on the Legislature

September 2010

## A Selected list of Minnesota-focused Books and Reports:

Bayless, Betty, et al. *How to Make a Difference: a Citizen's Guide to State Government*. St. Paul, MN: League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 2006.

Boyle, Anna. *Analyzing Two Minnesota Governors and the Use of Executive Power in Policymaking: Wendell Anderson in 1971 and Tim Pawlenty in 2009*. Augsburg College, URGO [Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity] Summer Research Program, 2009.

*Fiscal Review (A Fiscal Review of the...Session)*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota State Senate, Senate Counsel and Research, published annually. Detailed information on state revenues and expenditures.

*Guide to the Minnesota Senate*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Senate Publications, 2009. (Web version at: <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/general/guide.htm>)

Hoffman, Steve, Homer Williamson, and Kay Wolsborn. *Perspectives on Minnesota Government and Politics*. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing, 2003.

*Minnesota House of Representatives Legislative Information Manual*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota House of Representatives, Public Information Office, 2009.

*Minnesota Government in Brief*. St. Paul, MN: Research Department, Minnesota House of Representatives, 2009.

*Minnesota Legislative Manual (Blue Book)*. St. Paul, MN: State of Minnesota, Secretary of State.  
*Minnesota Legislative Process*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota State Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education, 2008.

*Minnesota State Government Series*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota House of Representatives, Public Information Office.

*New Laws*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota House Information Office, published annually.

*Politics in Minnesota: The Directory, 2009-2010*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Political Press, Inc. The *Politics in Minnesota* site also provides a directory of Minnesota political blogs (midway down the page on the left-hand side).

Wattson, Peter S. *Legislative Process in Minnesota*. St. Paul, MN: Senate Counsel, State of Minnesota, 2010.

## Legislatures Generally:

Cain, Bruce E., Todd Donovan, and Caroline J. Tolbert. *Democracy in the States: Experiments in Election Reform*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2008.

*Inside the Legislative Process: A Comprehensive Survey by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries in Cooperation with the National Conference of State Legislatures*. National Conference of State Legislatures, updated annually.

Loftus, Tom (former speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly). *The Art of Legislative Politics*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1994.

Neal, Tommy. *Learning the Game: How the Legislative Process Works*. Denver, Colorado: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2005.

Rosenthal, Alan. *Engines of Democracy: Politics & Policymaking in State Legislatures*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2009.

Rosenthal, Alan. *The Ethics Process in State Legislatures: Disciplining Members in a Public Forum*. Denver, Colorado: National Conference of State Legislatures, 1999.

Rosenthal, Alan. *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2004.

Rosenthal, Alan. *Republic on Trial: The Case for Representative Democracy*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2003.

Schultz, David, editor. *Money, Politics, and Campaign Finance Reform in the States*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2002.

Sibley, Joel H., editor. *Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System: Studies of the Principal Structures, Processes, and Policies of Congress and the State Legislatures Since the Colonial Era*. 3 Volumes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.

*The State of State Legislative Ethics: A Look at the Ethical Climate and Ethics Laws for State Legislators*. Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2002.

**Minnesota Periodicals (tracking the actions of the Minnesota Legislature):**

*Politics in Minnesota Weekly Report*. An insider's look at the personalities in Minnesota politics.

*Session Daily*. Minnesota House Public Information Office.

*Session Weekly*. Minnesota House Public Information Office.

*St. Paul Legal Ledger Capitol Report/Politics in Minnesota*.

**Web Resources:**

Minnesota Legislature - includes a great deal of background information on legislative activities and members. Use the Senate Publications and House Publications pages for lists of reports from various legislative offices.

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library – a wealth of information including Historical Information About the Minnesota Legislature, and Links to the World pages: particularly Politics and Elections, Legislatures, and State Information.

Smart Politics - a political blog from the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the University of Minnesota.

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) - a premier site for state legislative information, includes their blog The Thicket, "A Bipartisan Blog by and for Legislative Junkies."

Stateline.org - a news service specializing in state level policy issues.

Senate documents can be made available in alternative formats by calling: (612)296-0504 (voice), (612) 296-0250 (TDD) or 1-888-234-1212 (toll free)

*Note: Most of these items are available at area college and university libraries. They are also found in the collection of the Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building.*