**Contents:**

1. Minnesota home sales decline 18.2% in September
2. Where Minnesota gubernatorial candidates stand on core issues
3. Session Priorities Event Registration
4. DFLer Walz has slight edge over GOP’s Jensen in close Minnesota governor’s race
5. Polls
6. Businesses and cities navigate patchwork THC landscape after legalization
7. THC Poll
8. Five takeaways from the second Walz-Jensen debate
9. Fiscal Focus September/October Update
10. IIJA State Update Call Oct. 19
11. Campaign for control of Legislature plays out in suburbs
12. Inflation, abortion, crime top Minnesota voters’ priorities
13. Jobs
14. Suburban voters now have more negative outlook on DFLers, Minnesota’s direction

**I. Minnesota home sales decline 18.2% in September** via *Finance & Commerce*: Rising interest rates and other factors are having a chilling effect on home sales in Minnesota, even as prices of new and existing homes continue to rise. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7442251/click?url=https%3a%2f%2ffinance-commerce.com%2f2022%2f10%2fminnesota-home-sales-decline-18-2-in-september%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**II. Where Minnesota gubernatorial candidates stand on core issues** via *Duluth News Tribune: M*innesota’s governor faces a challenge this November from a Republican family practice physician who made a name for himself as a critic of measures intended to stop the spread of COVID-19 before clinching his party's endorsement earlier this year. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7442251/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.duluthnewstribune.com%2fnews%2fminnesota%2fwhere-minnesota-gubernatorial-candidates-stand-on-core-issues&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**III. Session Priorities Event Registration** via *Minnesota Chamber of Commerce:* Join us at Session Priorities, the Minnesota Chamber’s highest-profile event of the year to kick-off this year’s legislative session, bringing together business and legislative leaders from throughout Minnesota. Come to hear a preview of the legislative session from those who set the agenda, celebrate the successes of the business community and socialize with political leaders – and each other!

Wednesday, January 4th, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saint Paul River Centre (175 Kellogg Blvd W. St. Paul)

[Register HERE](https://member.mnchamber.com/events/2023-Session-Priorities-1093389/details)

**IV. DFLer Walz has slight edge over GOP’s Jensen in close Minnesota governor’s race** via *MinnPost:* The DFLer was preferred by 47% of those polled while Jensen was preferred by 42%. The four other candidates on the ballot shared 5% of the support; 5% remained undecided and 1% said they would not vote. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7458097/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.minnpost.com%2felections%2f2022%2f10%2fminnpost-poll-dfler-walz-has-slight-edge-over-gops-jensen-in-close-minnesota-governors-race%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**V. Polls**

**More:** An Embold Research poll commissioned by MinnPost finds the statewide office races to be increasingly close, with the races for attorney general and state auditor being tied. Attorney General **Keith Ellison**and Republican challenger **Jim Schultz**both sit at 47% in their matchup. For the secretary of state race, Sec. **Steve Simon**leads over **Kim Crockett**by 7 points. Meanwhile, there’s a double tie for state auditor: Auditor **Julie Blaha**and **Ryan Wilson**are tied for first, while Legal Marijuana Now’s **Tim Davis**and Grassroots Legalize Cannabis’s **Will Finn**are tied for last. Exact figures are below:

* **A.G. ELLISON:**47%
* **SCHULTZ:**47%
* **UNDECIDED:**5%

* **SEC. SIMON:**48%
* **CROCKETT:**41%
* **UNDECIDED:**10%

* **AUD. BLAHA:**40%
* **WILSON:**40%
* **DAVIS:**3%
* **FINN:**3%
* **UNDECIDED:**12%

The margin of error for each poll is +/- 2.6%. MinnPost has written an extensive analysis article to accompany their poll. [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=0ae3f63f7c&e=0e36f098dd)

**VI. Businesses and cities navigate patchwork THC landscape after legalization** via *MPR:* When a state law legalizing the sale of some THC products in Minnesota went into effect July 1, many Minnesotans were surprised. Some were delighted. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7464862/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.mprnews.org%2fstory%2f2022%2f10%2f18%2fbusinesses-and-cities-navigate-patchwork-thc-landscape-after-legalization&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**VII. THC Poll** via *MinnPost:* “A majority of Minnesotans surveyed as part of a new MinnPost/Embold Research poll say they support the state legalizing intoxicating THC edibles and beverages derived from hemp — which happened in July — and said the state should legalize marijuana-derived edibles. … In Minnesota, medical marijuana has been legal since 2014, but efforts to make the substance legal for recreational use have failed to gain traction. But this year, a controversial piece of legislation made edibles derived from hemp — not marijuana — legal in the state for adult recreational use. … Still, the poll suggests the regulatory change making THC edibles and beverages legal in Minnesota is popular with Minnesotans: 60% of the poll’s respondents said they believe Minnesota should allow the sale of THC edibles and beverages made from both hemp and marijuana. Another 7% of those polled say the new law allowing hemp-derived products works for them but don’t support the legalization of products made from marijuana.” [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=6ba8126a19&e=0e36f098dd)

**VIII. Five takeaways from the second Walz-Jensen debate** via *MPR:* Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Republican challenger Scott Jensen on Tuesday faced off during a wide-ranging television debate. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7480274/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.mprnews.org%2fstory%2f2022%2f10%2f18%2ffive-takeaways-from-the-second-walzjensen-debate&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**IX. Fiscal Focus September/October Update** via *Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence:* Includes information on pension policy, insight on 2023 property tax policymaking, and registration for the MCFE Annual Meeting of Members and Policy Forum ATTACH PDF

**X. IIJA State Update Call Oct. 19** via *The Governor’s Office:* ATTACH PDF

**XI. Campaign for control of Legislature plays out in suburbs** via *MPR:* Hardly a day passes without a new glossy political piece landing in mailboxes of Woodbury voters, usually carrying warnings in caps-lock type and searing images to match. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7487163/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.mprnews.org%2fstory%2f2022%2f10%2f20%2fcampaign-for-control-of-legislature-plays-out-in-suburbs&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XII. Inflation, abortion, crime top Minnesota voters’ priorities** via *MinnPost:* While crime and inflation were cited as top issues by voters of both parties, they were more often of concern to those who identify with the Republican Party. Abortion was an issue mostly for Democratic-supporting voters. That tracks with the campaign themes of the two parties as they compete for eight seats in Congress, 201 seats in the state House and Senate and four statewide partisan offices. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7487163/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.minnpost.com%2felections%2f2022%2f10%2fminnpost-poll-inflation-abortion-crime-top-minnesota-voters-priorities%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XIII. Jobs** via KSTP-TV**:**“State officials say Minnesota has now seen 12 consecutive months of job growth. Thursday, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) released last month’s jobs data, which included an increase of 4,200 jobs, up 0.1% from August. Initially, the department reported a slight loss of jobs in August, however, DEED’s revised report says the state actually gained around 1,200 jobs in August. Overall, U.S. jobs grew 0.4% in September. Additionally, the agency reported a 0.1% increase in the unemployment rate last month, moving the state’s rate to 2%, still near its record low. The national unemployment rate is 3.5%. DEED officials also say the state’s labor force participation rate dropped by 0.1% in September to 68.1%. The national rate is 62.3%.” [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=26d39df2cd&e=0e36f098dd)

**XIV. Suburban voters now have more negative outlook on DFLers, Minnesota’s direction** via *MinnPost:* WA new October poll of 1,585 likely voters by MinnPost/Embold Research found an improving mood among likely voters surveyed in Minneapolis and St. Paul, a gloomy but largely unchanged one in Greater Minnesota and an outlook in the metro suburbs that is far worse than views in a similar June poll. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7503278/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.minnpost.com%2fpolitics-policy%2f2022%2f10%2fminnpost-poll-suburban-voters-now-have-more-negative-outlook-on-dflers-minnesotas-direction%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)