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**I. Housing construction in Twin Cities metro dips for fifth month** via *Star Tribune:* A new report from Twin Cities homebuilders shows that steady increases in mortgage rates continue dampening demand for new housing in the Twin Cities metro area. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7343685/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.startribune.com%2fhousing-construction-in-twin-cities-metro-dips-for-fifth-month%2f600211776%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**II. The Twin Cities housing marketing is weird right now. Should you buy or rent?** via *Star Tribune:* Consider these confounding market dynamics: Mortgage rates are nearly double what they were a year ago, but they're still below historical averages. Home prices are still on the rise, but those increases are slowing quickly. Buyers have more choices than last year, but houses are still selling in only about a month. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7343685/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.startribune.com%2ftwin-cities-housing-buy-rent%2f600212320%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**III. Minnesota Auditor candidates disagree on role of office** via *MPR:* The contest became one of the tightest, according to recent polls and campaign finance reports. And the tenor between the candidates reached a new pitch as they’ve tried to make the case to voters often unfamiliar with the office. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7343685/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.mprnews.org%2fstory%2f2022%2f10%2f03%2fminnesota-auditor-candidates-disagree-on-role-of-office&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**IV. Want greater government accountability? Reform the human capital system** via *Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence:* Calls for resignations and splitting up big agencies are unlikely to solve the recent spate of Minnesota government’s accountability problems. A recent hearing highlighted why we need to make what most likely consider a policy pipe dream, a reality. ATTACH PDF

**V. Twin Cities suburbs make ‘Best Places’ rankings** via *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal:* Fortune magazine, in an inaugural ranking of 25 best cities in the United States for families, picks the northeast metro city of [Woodbury as Number 14](https://fortune.com/well/ranking/best-places-families/2022/). Meanwhile, Chanhassen makes a repeat visit to the venerable Money ranking of "Best Places to Live." [READ MORE](https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2022/10/03/woodbury-chanhassen-fortune-ranking.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=MN&j=29253003&senddate=2022-10-03)

**VI. Bloomington housing booms and emphasizes affordability** via *Finance and Commerce:* The first-ring suburb sees rapid housing growth across price points. [READ MORE](https://news.finance-commerce.com/acton/ct/22719/s-18e1-2210/Bct/q-0080/l-007f%3A598/ct3_0/1/lu?sid=TV2%3AWufcL89JD)

**VII. THC law in Minnesota forces employers to revisit drug testing policies** via *Kare 11:* Lauryn Schothorst, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce director of workforce management policy, said the lack of clear guidance has left many businesses scrambling to review their policies like drug testing.  [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7364533/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.kare11.com%2farticle%2fnews%2flocal%2fthc-law-minnesota-forces-employers-to-revisit-drug-testing-policies%2f89-f4874d7d-d4d3-48ad-943d-9c9ddb37f18f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**VIII. Stress** via *New York Post:* Three in four Americans would do ‘nearly anything’ to have a single stress-free day. A new poll of 2,000 Americans revealed one in 10 can’t even remember the last time they had a stress-free day. When people feel stressed out, they avoid necessary tasks like doing laundry (20%), vacuuming (15%), and cleaning their homes (15%). Many said they would pass on a week’s worth of productivity (30%), an entire paycheck (28%), and even sex (26%) if it meant having a stressless day. [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=b468902f2c&e=dd71966378)

**IX. 3 statewide races all toss-ups with a month to go** via *KSTP/Survey USA:* All three Minnesota statewide races below the governor’s race are considered toss-ups, according to our exclusive new KSTP/SurveyUSA poll. The three Democratic incumbents in the races for attorney general, secretary of state and auditor all remain in the lead, but well within the “credibility interval,” similar to a margin of error, in each of the races. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7387259/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fkstp.com%2fkstp-news%2ftop-news%2fkstp-surveyusa-poll-3-statewide-races-all-toss-ups-with-a-month-to-go%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**X. New Publications on Property Taxes and Health and Human Services** via *House Research:*

**Property Taxes**

1. [Homestead Credit Refund Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMTAuNjQ5MjE2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ob3VzZS5sZWcuc3RhdGUubW4udXMvaHJkL3B1YnMvc3Mvc3NocHRycC5wZGYifQ.qW2KpBLSL1TJL9RTHs0Vu0L-_1xM1qguByqxmsHVuQM/s/1064110453/br/145510686623-l)
2. [Renter's Property Tax Refund Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMTAuNjQ5MjE2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ob3VzZS5sZWcuc3RhdGUubW4udXMvaHJkL3B1YnMvc3Mvc3NycHRycC5wZGYifQ.s32gz7JjJRdEi-5k2afyuv42rJNP3aZAz9t86o-v4dw/s/1064110453/br/145510686623-l)
3. [Targeting Property Tax Refund](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMTAuNjQ5MjE2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ob3VzZS5sZWcuc3RhdGUubW4udXMvaHJkL3B1YnMvc3Mvc3N0cmd0LnBkZiJ9.G15ojJyEUeGbtgrmGnONFK_MsS-oMUTodkGpcI3fkY8/s/1064110453/br/145510686623-l)

**Health and Human Services**

1. [Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Waiver Programs](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMTAuNjQ5MjE2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ob3VzZS5sZWcuc3RhdGUubW4udXMvaHJkL3B1YnMvd2FpdmVyLnBkZiJ9.GydxRUiKqZNhlJgbtUcBzBMA3-prH1QHd3r2niUGhp4/s/1064110453/br/145510686623-l)
An 11-page information brief that provides background information on the Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs and provides details on the five Minnesota-specific waivers. September 2022.
2. [Minors' Consent for Health Care](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMTAuNjQ5MjE2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ob3VzZS5sZWcuc3RhdGUubW4udXMvaHJkL3B1YnMvc3Mvc3NtaW5vcmhjLnBkZiJ9._pLhNE-S-4bzerzWFmOsQiA7_GEPVfHdJ7SHHHeQwLw/s/1064110453/br/145510686623-l)

**XI. Full-time firefighters in demand as suburbs struggle to find on-call recruits** via *Star Tribune:* Many suburban fire departments are hiring full-time firefighters for the first time or adding more to their roster as demand for their services increases. [READ MORE](https://www.startribune.com/full-time-firefighters-in-demand-as-suburbs-struggle-to-find-on-call-recruits/600214351/)

**More** via *Kare 11:* “There's a big problem in firefighting right now: not enough people, or at least, not enough volunteers. Countless fire departments across the country rely on volunteer firefighters who are on-call and only get paid when the emergency calls come in. This model is common in small cities and towns, because it’s more affordable to pay someone part-time, and the call volume can usually be managed by a part-time crew. This model has been used for decades, but a growing number of fire departments nationwide are now transitioning to full-time staff because they can’t find enough volunteers. ‘The numbers are considerably down for us,’ Bloomington Fire Chief **Ulie Seal** says. Back in the early 2000s, the Bloomington Fire Department had a staff of around 155 volunteer on-call firefighters. Chief Seal says that number has gone down significantly in recent years. ‘Right now, we have 99 firefighters. Eight of them are full-time and seven are also career fire chiefs,’ Seal says. The department is now looking to hire 18 full-time firefighters to address this shortage and they’re using federal funding to help them get started. The Bloomington Fire Department recently received $6.2 million from the federal government’s Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program (SAFER). The program was created to help fire departments hire more full-time firefighters.” [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=18668e64b1&e=0e36f098dd)

**XII. The state of 2022 early voting in Minnesota: It’s not 2020 anymore** via *MinnPost:* Local elections offices have accepted 49,575 ballots in the first two weeks of early voting and mail voting. By this time in 2020, more than six times as many pre-Election-Day ballots – 336,017 – had been accepted for processing, according to numbers released Friday by the Minnesota secretary of state. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7403485/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.minnpost.com%2felections%2f2022%2f10%2fthe-state-of-2022-early-voting-in-minnesota-its-not-2020-anymore%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XIII. US DOT to announce Minnesota recipients of grant funds from infrastructure bill Wednesday** via *KSTP:* Members of the United States Department of Transportation will be in the western Twin Cities metro area on Wednesday to announce new grant recipients. The money comes from a $1 trillion infrastructure bill that was passed by Congress in 2021. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/7419567/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fkstp.com%2fkstp-news%2ftop-news%2fus-dot-to-announce-minnesota-recipients-of-grant-funds-from-infrastructure-bill-wednesday%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)