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**I. Lobbying** via MinnPost**:**“Minnesota cities and counties joined a nationwide lobbying blitz in Washington D.C. as the federal government poured money into states during the pandemic. But will local governments get what they are paying for? After the avalanches of pandemic money poured into state and local coffers, the approval of a massive federal infrastructure bill intensified the desire for a hired gun in Washington. In the first quarter of 2021, about a dozen Minnesota cities and counties had Washington representation. According to financial disclosure forms filed in the U.S. Senate that nearly doubled a year later. In the first of quarter of 2022 nearly two dozen Minnesota counties and towns had hired lobbyists. … Lakeville City Administrator **Justin Miller** said his city hired a Washington lobbyist about a year ago for several reasons. … He also said his city decided it was time to hire a lobbyist because Congress had reinstated earmarks after a near 10-year ban on these projects. Since lawmakers are limited in the number of special projects they can ask for, there’s plenty of competition. So, Lakeville hopes its new lobbyist is persuasive.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=a2aed080a0&e=dd71966378)

**II. An unusual new scenario at the MN Capitol** via *The Pioneer Press*: The state’s top Democrats — Gov. Tim Walz and House Speaker Melissa Hortman — set aside their long-sought spending priorities and pushed $4 billion in tax rebates to Minnesotans.

In other words, Democrats pushing tax rebates with no spending strings attached.

And the state’s top Republicans opposed that idea. That’s Republicans opposing a tax rebate. Sound backward? [READ MORE](http://enews.subscriber-services.com/q/F5AzZyhQbvuR0XRaS9jFNpLDKLhsWkSnPsazZcOJdHBvdWxAbWVzc2VybGlrcmFtZXIuY29tw4g9Mki4Vypf4BsfxjxHBHFv_3AJQ).

**III. Expiring state historic tax credit imperils projects** via *Finance and Commerce:* A plan to turn a 1942-vintage school in Eagle Bend into homes for seniors is imperiled by the looming end of the state historic tax credit. [READ MORE](https://finance-commerce.com/2022/06/expiring-state-historic-tax-credit-imperils-projects/?utm_term=Expiring%20state%20historic%20tax%20credit%20imperils%20projects&utm_campaign=Expiring%20state%20historic%20tax%20credit%20imperils%20projects&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email)

**IV. Gas tax** via *MinnPost:* “With average Minnesota gas prices up over $4.70 per gallon and summer well underway, people are feeling pinched at the pump, where depending on the vehicle, it costs most drivers somewhere between $55 and $160 for a tank of regular gas. As gas prices have risen in recent months, policymakers have floated — and in some states, implemented — something called a gas tax holiday, which provides temporary relief from taxes on gas.  So, when you’re paying $50 or more to fill up in Minnesota, how much of that is going toward gas taxes, and what happens with that money? … For every gallon of regular gas Minnesotans buy, we pay 47 cents in taxes — 28.6 cents to the state and 18.4 to the federal government. That’s 9.9 percent of the total cost of the average gallon of gas right now. … This week, President **Joe Biden** asked Congress to suspend the 18.4 cent per gallon federal gas tax until the end of September, using revenues from other sources to make up for losses to highway funds. Some people are clamoring for reprieve from the state gas tax, too.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=ac85ca92e4&e=dd71966378)

**V. Housing** via *Axios Twin Cities:* “Suburban apartment construction could heat up as developers get squeezed by recent changes in Minneapolis and St. Paul. What's happening: A Hennepin County District Judge issued a ruling last week that halted implementation of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan, which allows for more dense housing. The decision is creating chaos for city officials and developers and Mayor **Jacob Frey**has promised an appeal. Meanwhile, in St. Paul, a new rent control policy has all-but stopped housing development, though there's a new lawsuit hoping to reverse the ordinance. … If developers don't build housing in St. Paul and Minneapolis, they'll be forced to look to the suburbs to satisfy a growing need for multi-family homes brought on by smaller family sizes, downsizing baby boomers and a single-family housing market that has become too expensive for many, said **Dean Dovolis**, principal at DJR Architecture.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=1bf78b88e4&e=dd71966378)

**VI. Governor Walz Press Conference** Wednesday June 22, 2022

**Press Conference on Proposing Immediate Financial Assistance**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

*Governor* ***Tim Walz,*** *Speaker* ***Melissa Hortman*** *and Lieutenant Governor* ***Peggy Flanagan*** *will discuss a proposal to provide immediate financial assistance in potential special session.*

**Gov Walz:** Inflationary price is on gas and food. Republican is not interested in exchanging a deal or finding a solution. Let’s take half of the surpluses back to Minnesotans, $2000 checks to every couple, 274,470 as a top income limit, and individuals $1000. It is state and federal tax free. It will be an immediate impact today. The only thing to move this is waiting for the Republican. We still accepting exchange offers. This check will go to everyone who is eligible.

**Lt Gov Flanagan:** We have recovered from the economic impact of the pandemic. We are ready to relieve the life of our Minnesotans. People need a boost now because of the high price in gas and food, and this proposal will help them.

**Speaker Hortman:** Less than a week, Senate Republican walked away from the negotiation. Today we’re bringing forward a revised proposal that builds on the bipartisan framework. We haven’t agreed upon tax bill. We can close the gap in the few areas of the budget where we’re further apart. If Republicans are willing to come back to the table, then we can use the money left on the bottom line to provide some immediate financial assistance to those struggling with rising costs. Minnesota families need assistance. We can take strong bipartisan steps to improve public safety. We have billions in federal infrastructure money that’s on the line and Minnesota could lose if we can’t reach an agreement. We are one of the only divided legislatures in the country. Governor and DFLers are still here and ready to find compromises and addresses the challenges Minnesotans are facing.

**Reporter**: Speaker is on the board, and 4 billion giving back, and forget the other 4 billion in spending.

**Gov Walz:** Yeah, this is the bottom line. The agreement that we signed was 4 billion in tax cut, 4 million investments, and 4 billion on the bottom line. We have the money to send the checks to Minnesotans.

**Reporter:** Why not just call back?

**Gov Walz:** Because I want to help Commissioners. We’re not going to come back until we get an agreement on this.

**Reporter:** Stimulating the economy right now would be the opposite of what the fed is trying to do with these interest rate increases. Why would you be sending out stimulus checks at the time when the fed is trying to cool?

**Gov Walz:** From a micro-economic scale, this is what folks would help with. The macro impact of this is not even measurable.

**Reporter:** *Inaudible*

**Gov. Walz:** We know there is a cost for that. This is not increases or pulling from other things. This is using a surplus to pay back. This is the most effective way to impact gas prices.

**Reporter:** Are you still calling this Walz Checks?

**Gov Walz:** You can call whatever you want. Minnesota is going to call it “gas check”.

**Reporter:** Do you support this proposal?

**Speaker Hortman:** Yes, I do. Minnesotans need help to pay for gas, food, and diapers. This kind of stimulus for families could make a big difference in their budget.

**Reporter:** Is your tax committee chair on board?

**Speaker Hortman:** I haven’t had the opportunity to talk with him. I will give him a call.

**Reporter**: Senator Bakk was concerned about the federal taxation of this and essentially sending part of our surplus to Washington. Is that a concern?

**Speaker Hortman**: No, because our Tax policy analysts figured out drafting solution to that.

**Gov Walz:** No federal-state tax and no counting against other assistance programs.

**Reporter:** Have you received any more information that commissioners are yet at risk?

**Gov Walz:** I think they always are. I don’t think we can come back to a special session without parameters.

**Reporter:** Is there any changed statement that Senator Miller has made over the last month?

**Gov Walz**: Fool me 3 times, I’m not going for 4 with the commissioner. GOP Senate doesn’t want to be here.

**Reporter:** Last week, within the parameters of what you’re dealing with, you said you couldn’t afford to give Senate Republicans everything. But could you use any of the surpluses to get to their number of 800 million?

**Gov Walz:** Yes, we offered that but they wouldn’t do it.

**Reporter:** Is it as simple as just these $2000 checks because I’m hearing education and nursing homes?

**Gov Walz:** They walked away from that and I can’t force them to come back for that. I’m just saying to put that aside and let’s agree on this. You can come back next year for that. This proposal helps families.

**Reporter:** Could you do it by executive order if you chose to or does it need the approval of the Legislatures?

**Gov Walz:** No, we will have to go through the Legislatures.

**Reporter:** So you could not do it alone?

**Gov Walz:** No, we cannot. We’re going through the Legislature. Right now, we proposed to reduce costs and waiting for a response.

**VII. A whole lot of nothing: A divided Minnesota Legislature can’t find a way to spend a record surplus** via *MinnPost:* With all 201 seats in the Legislature and all four constitutional offices on the ballot, much of the campaign rhetoric related to this session will be on the things one side wanted to pass but the other side blocked. It could well consist of a recitation of non-accomplishments. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6522815/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.minnpost.com%2fnews%2f2022%2f06%2fa-whole-lot-of-nothing-a-divided-minnesota-legislature-cant-find-a-way-to-spend-a-record-surplus%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**VIII. Tax-base sharing helps spread wealth among communities** via *The Metro Council:* For more than 50 years, the Met Council has enacted a one-of-a-kind tax-sharing program to improve fiscal equity. The Fiscal Disparities program requires municipalities in the Twin Cities region to contribute a portion of their commercial and industrial tax bases to reduce large differences in property tax wealth between communities. Nearly $720 million was shared and distributed between municipalities in 2022. [READ MORE](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA2MjMuNTk4MTc0ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL21ldHJvY291bmNpbC5vcmcvQ29tbXVuaXRpZXMvUGxhbm5pbmcvTG9jYWwtUGxhbm5pbmctQXNzaXN0YW5jZS9GaXNjYWwtRGlzcGFyaXRpZXMuYXNweCJ9.nECn3jYbdx-RfpqckP9E-fk-LpqstKztulMPIcBtqFc/s/1196680261/br/133515331103-l)

**IX. MN Dept. of Labor hopes frontline worker pay will be administered this fall** via *KEYC:* The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry did not say definitively when it will start giving out frontline worker pay, but the department’s deputy commissioner says the department has a timeframe. “We’re looking at fall for the payments to be made,” said Nicole Blissenbach, deputy commissioner for the MN Department of Labor. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6539532/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.keyc.com%2f2022%2f06%2f24%2fmn-department-labor-hopes-frontline-worker-pay-will-be-administered-this-fall%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**X. Commissioners via *MinnPost:*** “It was a bit of a ‘wait, what?’ moment during Gov. Tim Walz’s press conference to promote his new and enlarged tax rebate check plan. If it is such a popular idea, why doesn’t the DFL governor call a special session and put pressure on the Legislature – especially the Republican-led Senate – to pass it. Would they want to appear to be standing between Minnesota families and two grand each? His stated reasoning had nothing to do with checks or elections or the odds of success. **WALZ:**‘Because I want a health commissioner, because I’d like a public safety commissioner,’ Walz said, referencing **Jan Malcolm**and **John Harrington**who have drawn criticism and threats of removal from GOP senators.  In 2020, two commissioners were fired by the Senate and a third resigned in 2021 when threatened with removal. ‘We’ve seen the political, outrageous behavior of removing commissioners at will,’ Walz said. ‘We’re not going to come back until we get an agreement on this.’ Has Senate Majority Leader **Jeremy Miller** renewed a threat to hold confirmation votes on additional commissioners? No, Walz said. But he’s just making sure.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=1e6a5c3f0a&e=dd71966378)

**XI. Hero Pay** via *The Star Tribune:* As of Thursday morning, more than 762,000 Minnesotans have already applied to receive frontline worker pay checks from the state. Applicants have until July 22 to apply for a cut of the $500 million allocated toward Minnesotans who worked in critical roles during the first 15 months of the pandemic. Not every applicant will qualify for “hero pay;” the state estimated that 667,000 workers would qualify. State Sen. **Erin Murphy** told the Tribune that the number of applicants so far doesn’t surprise her, “I suspected that our estimates could be low, and I wanted to make sure that we were honoring the work of people.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=9b61fc9904&e=dd71966378)

**XII. Plans for 300 Life Time apartments in Edina unveiled** via *Finance and Commerce:* The luxury apartments are part of the health chain’s plans to redevelop under-used real estate at Southdale Center. [READ MORE](https://finance-commerce.com/2022/06/plans-for-300-life-time-apartments-in-edina-unveiled/?utm_term=Plans%20for%20300%20Life%20Time%20apartments%20in%20Edina%20unveiled&utm_campaign=Plans%20for%20300%20Life%20Time%20apartments%20in%20Edina%20unveiled&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email)

**XIII. Gov. Tim Walz, GOP leaders cool on idea of state gas tax holiday** via *The Star Tribune:* Gov. Tim Walz and Republican legislative leaders said last week they are open to a state gas tax holiday, but question its effectiveness. President Joe Biden is urging Congress to suspend the federal 18.4-cent gas tax for three months. That could save Americans $2.76 for every 15 gallons they fill up. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6546612/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.startribune.com%2fgov-tim-walz-gop-leaders-cool-on-idea-of-state-gas-tax-holiday%2f600185255%2f%3frefresh%3dtrue&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XIV. Upscale rental homes catch on in Twin Cities metro area** via *The Star Tribune:* New developments of high-end rental homes — renting for up to $4,500 a month — are spreading across the metro area. [READ MORE](https://t.e2ma.net/click/f3tsb8b/zi35ifb/rcx6vj9)

**XV. James Vagle hired as Housing First Minnesota’s new Executive Director** via *Housing First MN twitter account* [VIEW TWEET HERE](https://twitter.com/housingfirstmn/status/1541495584556830722?s=10&t=a6KCN8gPaq8zFGNll-3QOQ)

Via *Press Release Housing First Minnesota:* “The Housing First Minnesota Board of Directors has appointed **James Vagle** as its executive director. Vagle is a leader with vision and passion for homeownership in Minnesota who assumes this role with a breadth of homebuilding industry experience spanning over two decades. Vagle was the vice president of advocacy at Housing First Minnesota, where he was the architect of the industry’s emergence as the leading voice for housing in Minnesota. ‘

Via *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*: Housing First Minnesota has promoted its Vice President of Advocacy, James Vagle, to serve as the group’s new executive director. Vagle takes over the role that was vacated by David Siegel in May. Siegel had been the organization’s executive director for over 11 years when he left. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6570433/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.bizjournals.com%2ftwincities%2fnews%2f2022%2f06%2f28%2fhousing-first-mn-names-new-executive-director.html&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XVI. League of Minnesota Cities 2022 Law Summaries** via *LMC*: The 2022 Law Summaries publication contains laws affecting cities that were enacted during the 2022 legislative session. [READ MORE](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rT2MMUU5JpxmPzIuc-_SWtoCfPMq3o9lQzodZaQ1DrrvSTbDcyX6kc6RCgjwrx3ELobKG9-ZlsVFrPmVJWHjMEmQXrT6tII_HL0WsoD0o-S2n6nI5UlcjQXssdfDFCpoC-w0pSR6uHCAH7_k0CObb5EOfn4ouoewJugA8rsbSrinSsVASyrPieg0_M_tup-YOFV7g3MevBEBx0DidRgr4A==&c=JzSFiNQYgI03YhZQ-Xc-Juw6TnkgFQG6crDbTx5FlhA-rvsPWcFHWQ==&ch=bQSbbyKGq0ArrD6uL-Jg-EjK-JIJ8nGhABGROej_J_gk4R-35efqnA==)

**XVII. Second Round of ARPA Funding to be Distributed June 28** via *LMC* A total of $142.9 million will be distributed by Minnesota Management and Budget to 744 cities. [READ MORE](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rT2MMUU5JpxmPzIuc-_SWtoCfPMq3o9lQzodZaQ1DrrvSTbDcyX6kS3Y7xjltfHIItOkLmBLpxg0vTmQGsa_Ab6AN0vJiIH5cCmLpcNzI63D2jmYX3eOSIS9PAunU3fQFqoHkXcC686N71GHBszJ7QrMAjnzLZ9ff6Nfgt76tYr69QV2sbv4LZIV2Xe7NtlYTh8zm8AH6LUrgHkJHNb8cNRajGdZrDZm&c=JzSFiNQYgI03YhZQ-Xc-Juw6TnkgFQG6crDbTx5FlhA-rvsPWcFHWQ==&ch=bQSbbyKGq0ArrD6uL-Jg-EjK-JIJ8nGhABGROej_J_gk4R-35efqnA==)

**XVIII. Investors bought about 12% of Twin Cities homes for sale in early 2022** via *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal:* Investors kept up their steady pace of home purchases in the first three months of 2022, although they're buying fewer homes now than they have through most of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the Twin Cities area. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6553710/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.bizjournals.com%2ftwincities%2fnews%2f2022%2f06%2f27%2fhousing-market-investor-activity-q1-2022.html&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XIX. New laws to take effect July 1st in Minnesota** via *KAAL:* The new law allows versions of cannabis like CBD, and even small amounts of THC, to be added to food and drinks in the state. With the growing popularity of edibles like CBD gummies, local growers said that not being able to sell these products was killing their business. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6570433/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.kaaltv.com%2fminnesota-news%2fnew--laws--to--take--effect--july--1st--in--minnesota%2f6511870%2f%3fcat%3d10151&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**XX. Session failure makes case for full-time Legislature** via *The Star Tribune*: The change would help our government meet the needs of our modern state. [READ MORE](https://www.startribune.com/session-failure-makes-case-for-full-time-legislature/600186084/)

**XXI. Nearly 2,700 new homes permitted in June** via *Commerce and Finance:* New homes permitted in the metro area during the month were up nearly threefold from a year ago. [READ MORE](https://finance-commerce.com/2022/06/nearly-2700-new-homes-permitted-in-june/?utm_term=Nearly%202%2C700%20new%20homes%20permitted%20in%20June&utm_campaign=Nearly%202%2C700%20new%20homes%20permitted%20in%20June&utm_content=email&utm_source=Act-On+Software&utm_medium=email)