



By Hanna Zinn • Jan 14, 2025

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Welcome back and happy first day of the 2025-26 session! I'm

coming to you with a special Tuesday update on what happened at the

Capitol today. Along with a Capitol update, I'm also sharing information

on two special election races and a reminder of HM's legislative

priorities. Let's dive in.

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House DFL No Show, Senate Power Sharing Agreement

**The big picture:** On the first day of the legislative session, House DFL

members were absent from the chamber, acting on a "call to strike" they

[announced last week](#) at a press conference.

- **Some background:** This no-show comes weeks after a [court ruled](#) Curtis Johnson, the elected member from Seat 40B in Roseville, did not meet residency requirements to fulfil his seat and causing him to resign. The vacancy has caused the previously tied chamber to move to a 67-66 count, with Republicans having a one seat edge over the DFL.

By the timeline:

- [November 25, 2024](#) – House Republicans and Democrats announce power-sharing agreement, divided co-chairs
- [December 20, 2024](#) – Ramsey County District Court Judge Leonardo Castro ruled Curtis Johnson, the DFL winner of House District 40B, did not meet residency requirements
- [December 27, 2024](#) – Curtis Johnson sends a letter to Gov. Tim Walz announcing his resignation from the MN House of Representatives
- [December 27, 2024](#) – Governor Walz issues Writ of Special Election to fill vacancy in House District 40B
- [January 6, 2025](#) – House Republicans and Democrats hold press conferences outlining breakdown in communications, negotiations for a divided House structure, and present legal references for their positions
- [January 10, 2025](#) – Secretary of State Steve Simon, the State's head presiding officer over the convening of the House, issues a letter to Rep. Demuth and Rep. Hortman detailing his duties and expectations for a quorum
- [January 13, 2025](#) – House Republican leaders Rep. Demuth and Rep. Niska send a letter to Sec. Simon urging him to reconsider his decision to adjourn if no quorum is present
- [January 13, 2025](#) – Sec. Simon issues a response to Rep. Demuth and Rep. Niska citing legal precedent to adjourn without a quorum, and asking the concerns expressed in their original letter be sent to the judicial branch
- [January 14, 2025](#) – No power-sharing agreement is agreed upon, House DFL members do not show, Sec. Simon adjourns without a quorum present, House Republicans override his decision and elect Rep. Demuth as Speaker of the House

Why it matters: With a clear breakdown in communication between

House Republicans and Democrats, the path forward for session remains

unclear. One thing to note: 2025 is a budget year, meaning the legislature

is constitutionally required to pass a budget before June 30th to avoid a

government shutdown. All revenue raising bills are required to originate

in the House according to the Minnesota Constitution.

Yes, and: The Senate reached a power-sharing agreement on Sunday,announcing via [joint press release](#). Due to the passing of Sen. Kari

Dziedzic, District 60 of Minneapolis, the Senate now also stands tied at

33-33. The power-sharing agreement, and now [passed resolution](#),

specifies each party will hold presiding control of the Senate and Senate

committees on alternating days, and each committee will be made up of

equal membership between Republicans and Democrats.

- The Senate opening day was a demure event compared to the House, with the approval of the power-sharing agreement, and member testimonies to the late Sen. Dziedzic.

Special Election Contests

**The big picture:** Following Sen. Dziedzic's passing and the resignation

of Curtis Johnson, Gov. Walz announced special elections will be held in

Senate District 60 and House District 40B on January 28th.

- Senate District 60 includes Northeast Minneapolis, and portions of the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood
- House District 40B includes Shoreview and the northern half of Roseville

What's next: Find your [polling place](#) and find out [who's on your ballot](#)

on the Secretary of State's website.

Hospitality Minnesota's 2025 Legislative Priorities

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Workforce Development and Education**

- The hospitality industry is crucial to the economic vitality of Minnesota. In 2024, Hospitality Minnesota's Education Foundation funded ProStart programs across the state, supporting over seventy schools and 13,000 students. These programs create the pipeline for talent needed for the future of industry.

Business Regulation and Taxes

- Hospitality Minnesota remains committed to protecting Minnesota's hospitality industry by opposing harmful business regulations that will force businesses to close, move out of state, and damage the state's economy.

Travel and Tourism Investments

- The travel and tourism industries are closely intertwined with the hospitality industry. Public safety at our state's campgrounds and RV parks, protection for our industry's members who rely on seasonal traffic and employment, and preventing further harmful regulation of these economic drivers of our state is imperative.

Alcohol and Cannabis Regulation

- Alcohol and cannabis regulation continue to be areas of law vital to the success of our bars and restaurants. Hospitality Minnesota will support legislation to improve these regulations, while opposing more harmful regulations from taking place.

Go deeper: Access our 2025 Legislative Priorities [here](#).

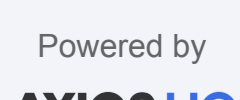
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