



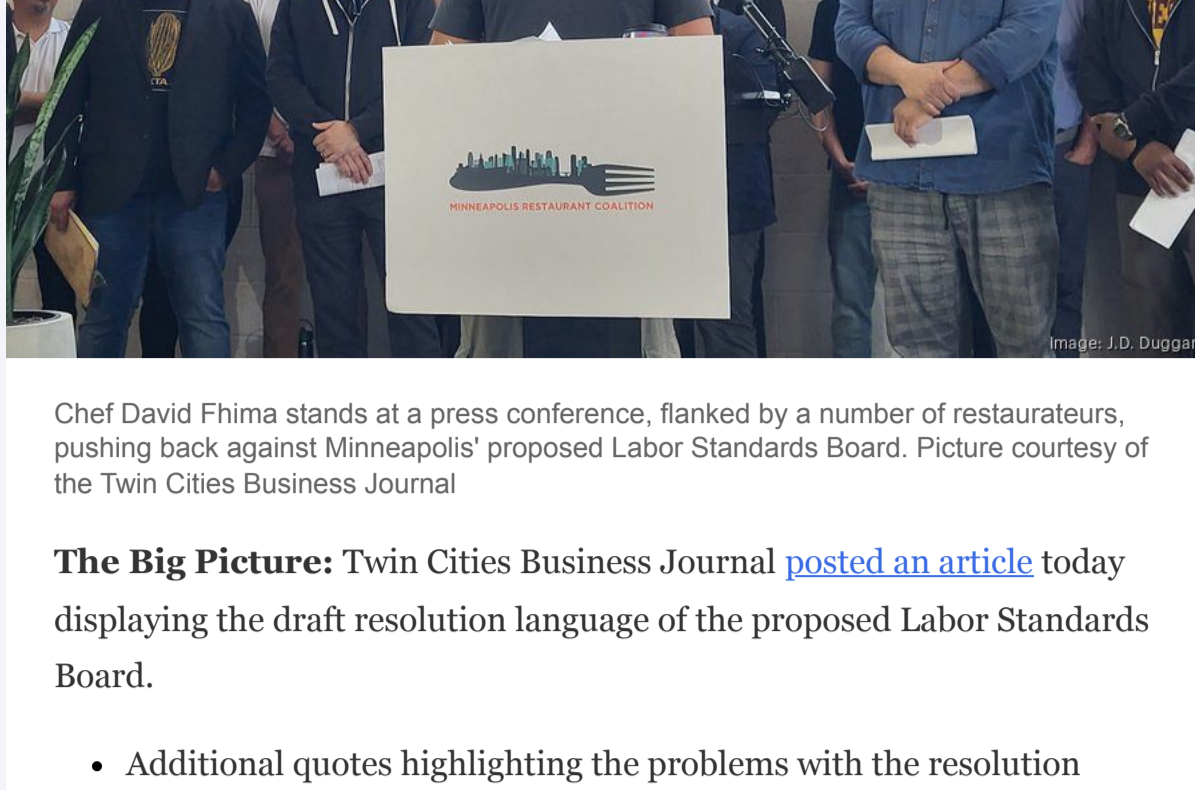
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE**  
ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

By Hanna Zinn • Oct 18, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...941 words

**Happy Friday!** It's finally starting to feel like fall around Minnesota! On a recent drive down to visit family in Iowa, I was able to see the [beautiful scenes of fall foliage](#) along Highway 169. It was a lovely opportunity to decompress and relax for just a small while, before diving back into the issues we're covering in this update: Labor Standards Board, Junk Fees, H-2B Visas – and more!

## Labor Standards Board Update



Chef David Fhima stands at a press conference, flanked by a number of restaurateurs, pushing back against Minneapolis' proposed Labor Standards Board. Picture courtesy of the Twin Cities Business Journal

**The Big Picture:** Twin Cities Business Journal [posted an article](#) today displaying the draft resolution language of the proposed Labor Standards Board.

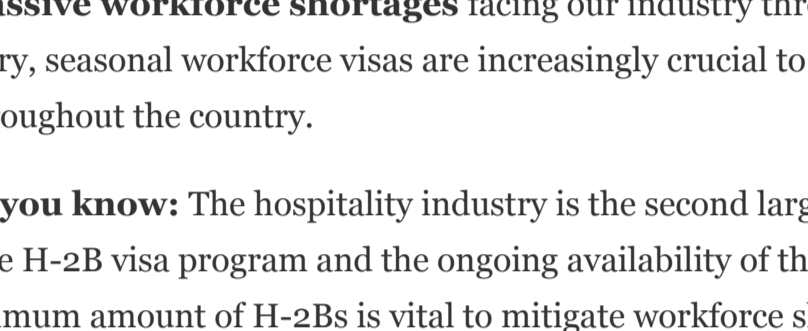
- Additional quotes highlighting the problems with the resolution were provided by David Benowitz, of Craft & Crew, and Andrea Corbin, of Flower Bar.

**Yes, and:** While the authors of the ordinance could not be reached for comment, SEIU Executive Director Brian Elliot weighed in stating “it’s more likely those workgroups will focus on janitorial services or property management long before full-service restaurants”.

**What’s Next:** The resolution is expected to be formally introduced next week, with a full council vote anticipated shortly after. An important, and disturbing, detail of the resolution process – no public hearing is required to pass it through committee. Meaning the Labor Standards Board resolution could be passed without any transparency, process, or public input.

- Hospitality Minnesota and our coalition partners at [Minneapolis Works Together](#) are working on various opportunities for our members to weigh in publicly – even if the city council doesn’t allow for a public hearing. Stay tuned for more information, and reach out to Hanna with any questions.

## From AHLA: Take Action on H-2B Visas!



**With massive workforce shortages** facing our industry throughout the country, seasonal workforce visas are increasingly crucial to many hotels throughout the country.

- **Did you know:** The hospitality industry is the second largest user of the H-2B visa program and the ongoing availability of the maximum amount of H-2Bs is vital to mitigate workforce shortages, especially in seasonal locations.

**Share your voice:** Tell your members of Congress to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in alignment with the Department of Labor (DOL), to release the maximum amount of supplemental H-2B visas as soon as possible.

**Some background:** The H-2B cap for the first half (October 1 filers) of the fiscal year was hit on September 18.

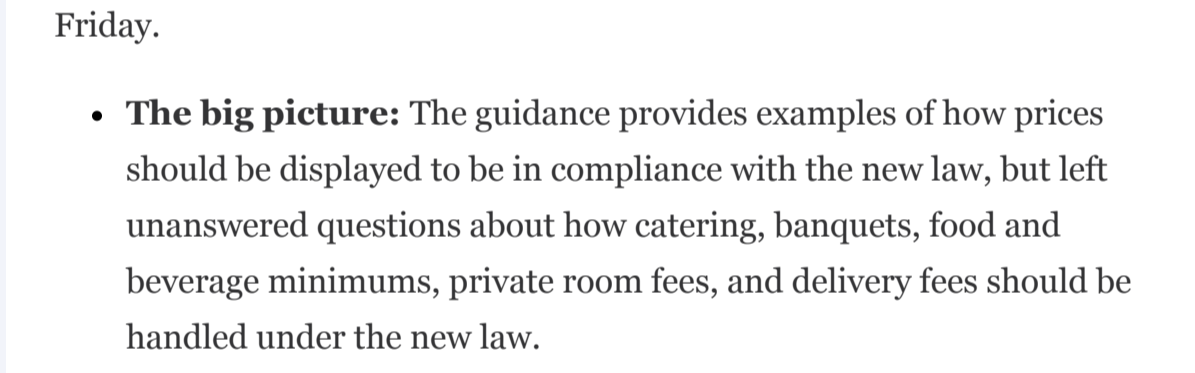
- The new fiscal year started October 1, and the Biden Administration now can use the discretionary authority authorized by Congress under a temporary spending bill or Continuing Resolution that runs through December 20.
- Our champions in the House and Senate have drafted letters that will be sent to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labor urging the prompt release of the maximum number of supplemental visas.

**What you can do:** [Use this action alert](#) to send a letter to your Members of Congress urging them to sign onto the House and Senate letters.

- Call your Senators and Representatives and ask them to sign onto either the House letter to DHS and DOL being circulated by Reps. Harris (R-MD) and Pingree (D-ME) or the Senate letter being circulated by Senators King (I-ME) and Rounds (R-SD) asking the Administration to promptly release the maximum allowed number of supplemental visas for FY 2025.

[Take Action Now!](#)

## Junk Fees Guidance



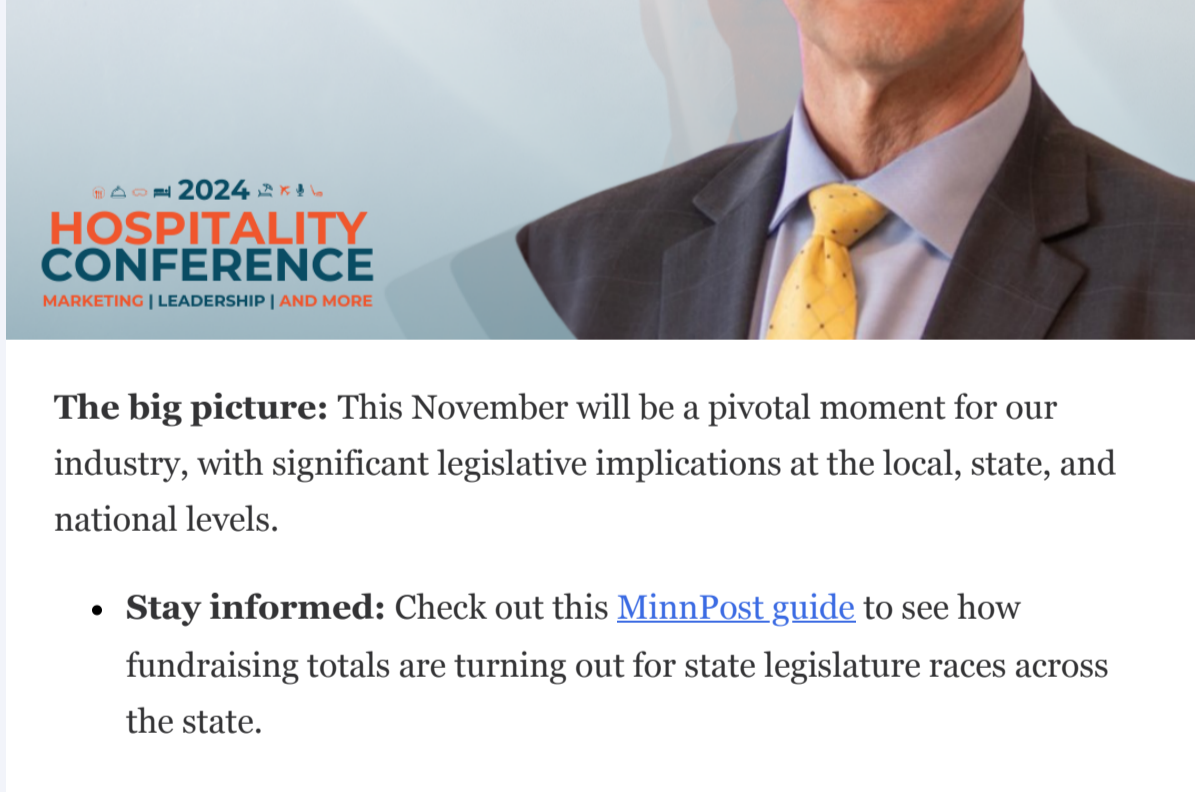
**In case you missed it,** the Attorney General’s office released their [guidance](#) on Junk Fees last week. Check out our [Special GR Update](#) from Friday.

- **The big picture:** The guidance provides examples of how prices should be displayed to be in compliance with the new law, but left unanswered questions about how catering, banquets, food and beverage minimums, private room fees, and delivery fees should be handled under the new law.

**What’s next:** The HM team has requested meetings with the AG’s office to gain more clarity around these issues.

- We are actively working toward a solution for our members before Jan. 1. We will keep you informed as soon as we know more.

## Reminder: Attend Our 2024 Election Preview with Tony Kwilas



**The big picture:** This November will be a pivotal moment for our industry, with significant legislative implications at the local, state, and national levels.

- **Stay informed:** Check out this [MinnPost guide](#) to see how fundraising totals are turning out for state legislature races across the state.

**What to expect:** To help you stay informed and prepared, we’ve invited [Tony Kwilas](#), Registered Lobbyist and Former Minnesota Policy Director for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, to deliver a comprehensive Election Preview at the [2024 Hospitality Conference at Madden's on Gull Lake](#) on Tuesday, October 29.

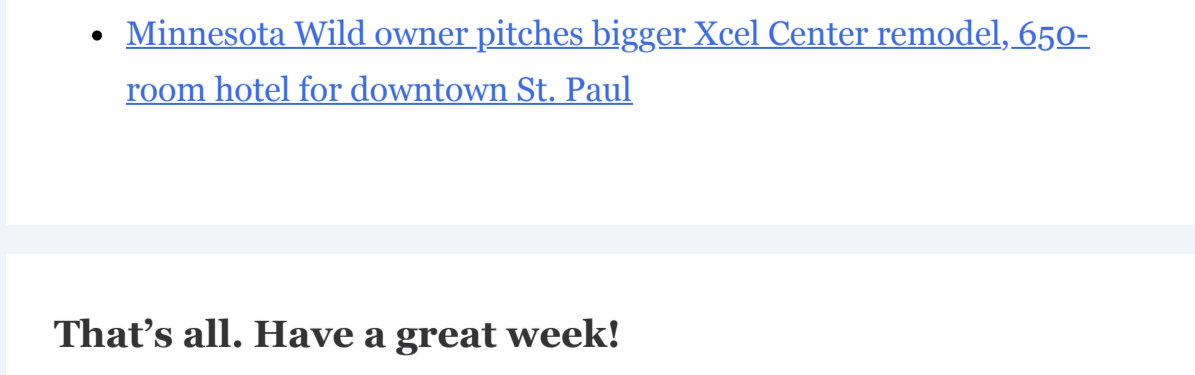
**Why it matters:** Tony will provide valuable insights into the key legislative issues impacting our industry, including:

- **State-level initiatives:** Understand the latest developments and potential policy changes that could affect your business.
- **Local government regulations:** Learn about emerging trends and how they may impact your operations.
- **National political landscape:** Gain insights into federal policies that could have ripple effects on the hospitality industry in Minnesota.

**Looking just to attend the Election Preview?** [Reach out to Tatyana](#) to see what tailored pricing options we can offer for a Tuesday day-pass.

[Register Here!](#)

## In the News



- [StepChld and 5 other Twin Cities restaurants to be featured on Guy Fieri's 'Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives'](#) - Fieri is bringing a taste of Minnesota to the airwaves with Hai Hai, Oro by Nixta, Union Hmong Kitchen, and others.
- [Bravi's Craft Mexican Kitchen Named Best Restaurant for Tacos in Minnesota by Yelp](#)
- [Minnesota Wild owner pitches bigger Xcel Center remodel, 650-room hotel for downtown St. Paul](#)

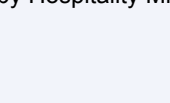
**That’s all. Have a great week!**

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