



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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By Ryan Hamilton • Jan 28, 2026

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This Government Relations Update includes an introduction to [Ryan Hamilton](#), Hospitality Minnesota's Director of Government Relations; as well as some vital information about next Tuesday's precinct caucuses and how you can get involved with yours ahead of the 2026 election season.

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## Introducing Ryan Hamilton, Hospitality Minnesota's Director of Government Relations



Members,

I'm reaching out to introduce myself as Hospitality Minnesota's new Director of Government Relations.

My role is straightforward. As the HM's "designated lobbyist", I serve as your eyes, ears, voice, and presence at the Minnesota State Capitol. This is where laws and policies affecting your everyday business are proposed and decided.

A brief personal note. I grew up in Greenville, South Carolina and come from a long line of vegetable gardeners. A gardener's job is to create or maintain the ideal conditions for plants to thrive. That requires attention to soil, timing, and environment. I see my service as your lobbyist in much the same way.

My mission, and Hospitality Minnesota's mission, is to help ensure that Minnesota's laws and regulations provide the public policy conditions in which lodging, food, camping, and entertainment businesses can thrive. That work is practical and ongoing. We track legislation as it develops. We build working relationships with legislators and administration officials. We explain how policy decisions affect real businesses in real communities.

Effective advocacy rests on two things: proximity and credibility.

Proximity means being present. It means showing up at hearings. It means being in offices. It means participating in conversations that often happen before a bill is ever introduced.

Credibility means authenticity and accuracy. HM is credible by grounding our advocacy in the lived experience of operators, employers, and affiliates across the hospitality industry. My responsibility is to bring both proximity and credibility to the Capitol on your behalf.

You will hear from me periodically. Some messages will provide policy updates. Others will flag moments when member engagement can make a real difference. These moments may call for a call, an email, a meeting, or public participation. When action is needed, it will be clear and intentional. It will also be respectful of your busy schedule.

The legislative process works best when policymakers hear directly from the constituents who will be affected by their decisions. Your engagement amplifies HM's voice in the public square. Having our voice heard improves the quality of the public debate and the fairness of the laws that come out of each session.

That engagement begins this Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with Minnesota Precinct Caucuses.

I look forward to working with you, keeping you informed, and identifying meaningful opportunities for your voice to be heard.

— Ryan, [ryan@hospitalitymn.com](mailto:ryan@hospitalitymn.com)

## Precinct Caucuses will take place on Tuesday, February 3 at 7 PM



**This is a major election year in Minnesota.** In 2026, voters will elect a Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, one U.S. Senator, all eight U.S. Representatives, and the entire State Legislature.

- **Stay proactive:** The earliest opportunity to shape that landscape is participation in precinct caucuses.

**The bottom line:** Participation is simpler than many people expect.

- **First, find your caucus location** by visiting Minnesota's Voting Information website [here](#).
- **Second, show up.** Caucus meetings are informal and local. Bringing a friend can help. Attending on your own is also common. Your presence matters as participation is a meaningful act of civic responsibility.

**What to expect at your caucus:** Candidates often attend caucuses as give brief remarks.

- **What you can do:** Consider introducing yourself and asking about their views on hospitality issues. Ask whether they understand the challenges facing lodging, food service, and entertainment businesses in their community.

**Why this matters:**

- **Today's candidate will be tomorrow's legislator.** Precinct caucuses are often where candidates first engage voters. These early conversations leave an impression. A question asked now may shape how an issue is approached years from now. Caucuses offer an early chance to cultivate industry champions.
- **Hospitality Minnesota's advocacy efforts** are strongest when members are engaged locally and attentive to the broader policy environment.

[Find Your Caucus!](#)

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