



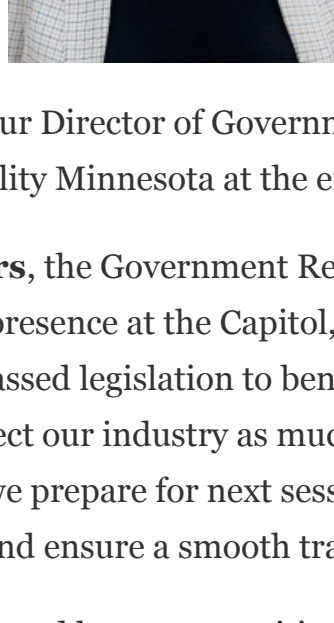
By Jill Sims • Aug 20, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 4 mins...1027 words

From the Desk of Jill Sims: As we enter the final few weeks of summer, we're now beginning to prepare for the 2025 legislative session. Given staff time off (and yours!) we're a little out of sync in terms of "Friday updates", but will be back on schedule in September.

In the meantime, we've been focused on the Labor Standards Board proposal in Minneapolis, meeting with elected officials and stakeholders, and tracking 2024 campaign updates. Read on to learn about our Minnesota goodbye, Walz going to the national stage, Minneapolis Labor Standard Board updates and more.

Government Relations Staff Update

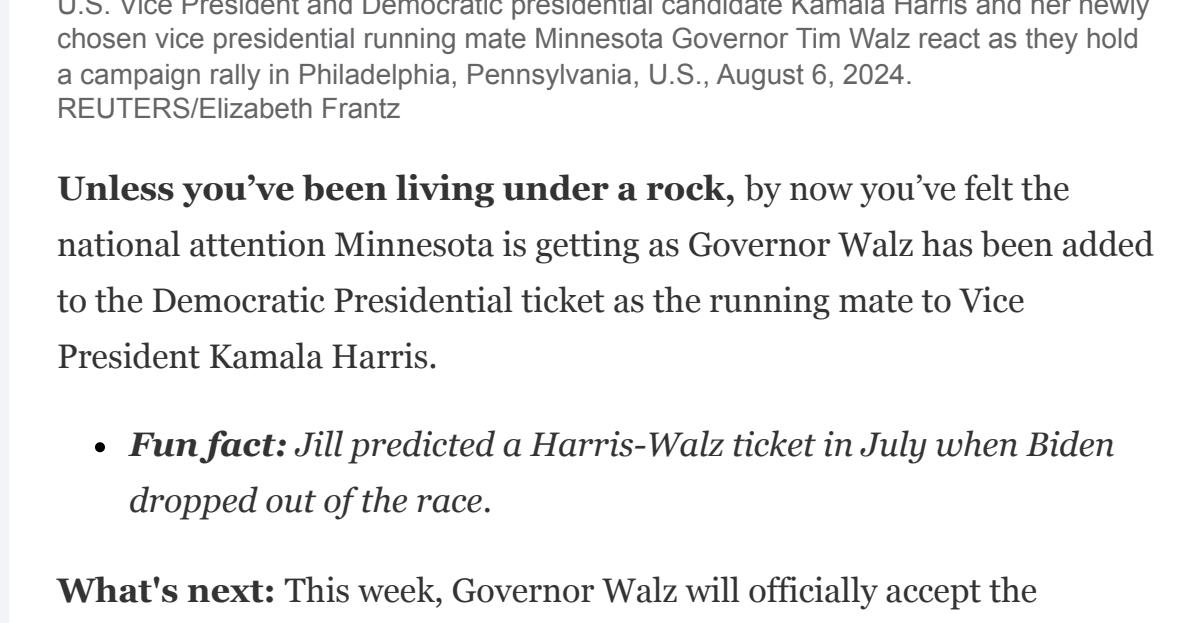


In bittersweet news, our Director of Government Relations Jill Sims will be departing Hospitality Minnesota at the end of September.

Over the past two years, the Government Relations team has elevated Hospitality Minnesota's presence at the Capitol, secured \$600,000 in workforce funding and passed legislation to benefit the industry, and worked diligently to protect our industry as much as possible from harmful regulations. As we prepare for next session, we will work diligently to fill the role and ensure a smooth transition.

We are excited for Jill and her opportunities ahead. Please join us in wishing Jill well, and we are thankful for our true "Minnesota goodbye". As the end of September gets closer, we will share additional information about the transition.

Walz added to Presidential Ticket as VP Pick



U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and her newly chosen vice presidential running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz react as they hold a campaign rally in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., August 6, 2024. REUTERS/Elizabeth Frantz

Unless you've been living under a rock, by now you've felt the national attention Minnesota is getting as Governor Walz has been added to the Democratic Presidential ticket as the running mate to Vice President Kamala Harris.

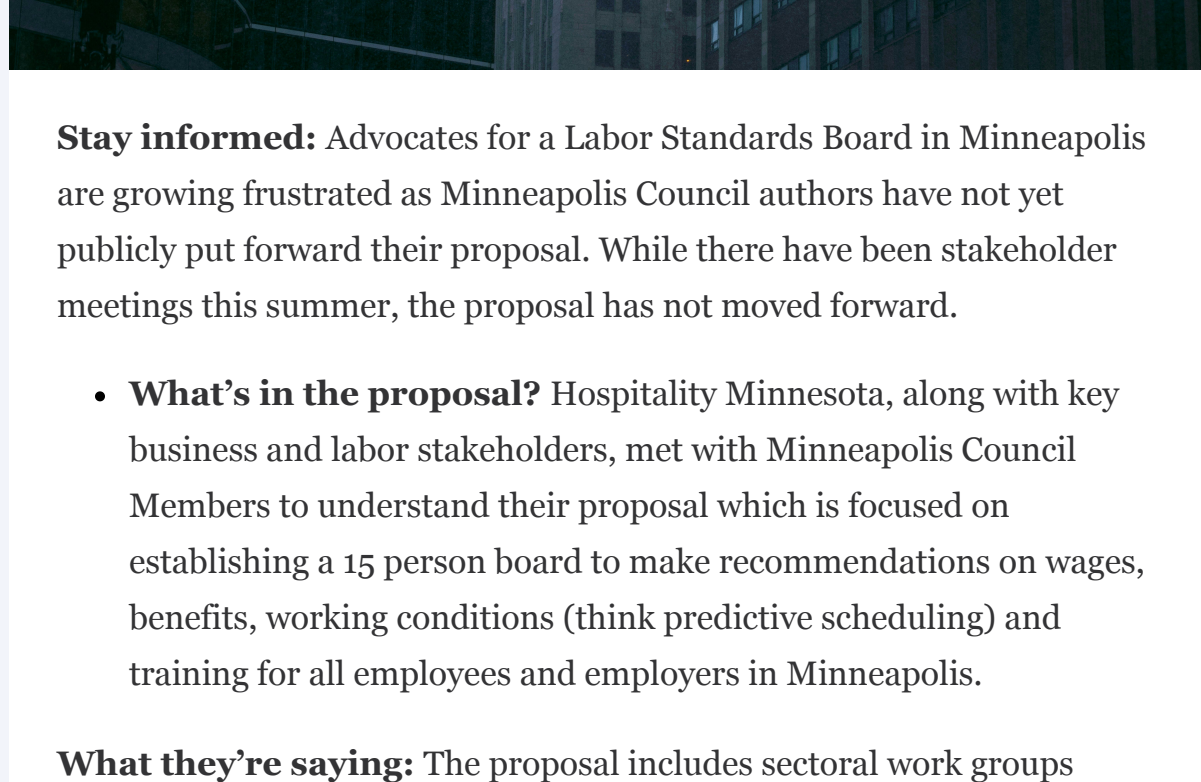
- **Fun fact:** *Jill predicted a Harris-Walz ticket in July when Biden dropped out of the race.*

What's next: This week, Governor Walz will officially accept the nomination in Chicago at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) on Wednesday evening and deliver a speech. It is also worth noting, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan will be present as she is a co-chair for the Democratic National Convention.

- **What happens if Harris-Walz wins?** If the Harris-Walz ticket wins in November, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan will ascend to Governor upon the resignation of Governor Walz. The President of the Senate (Senator Bobby Joe Champion), will become Lt. Governor, which likely results in a special election. The timing could get interesting, as session starts January 14, 2025 and Inauguration Day is January 20, 2025 – but keep in mind the Senate is only +1 Democrat, assuming they retain the special election seat in Minnetonka.

The bottom line: Buckle up for some interesting months ahead for Minnesota politics should Harris-Walz ticket win.

Minneapolis Labor Standards Board Proposal Stalls



Stay informed: Advocates for a Labor Standards Board in Minneapolis are growing frustrated as Minneapolis Council authors have not yet publicly put forward their proposal. While there have been stakeholder meetings this summer, the proposal has not moved forward.

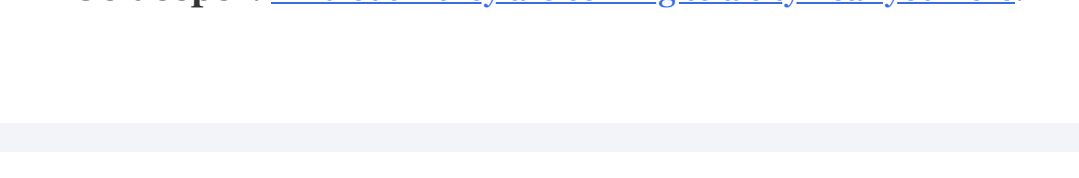
- **What's in the proposal?** Hospitality Minnesota, along with key business and labor stakeholders, met with Minneapolis Council Members to understand their proposal which is focused on establishing a 15 person board to make recommendations on wages, benefits, working conditions (think predictive scheduling) and training for all employees and employers in Minneapolis.

What they're saying: The proposal includes sectoral work groups which would be made of up 12 individuals who could examine sectors based on geography and/or industry sector. Think dishwashers downtown, bartenders in northeast, or all servers in Minneapolis – the possibilities are endless.

What's next: Hospitality Minnesota will continue to monitor and oppose the proposal while working with the [Save Local Restaurants](#) campaign.

- **Share your voice:** If you're in Minneapolis and want to send your Council Member a note of opposition, [you can do so here](#). More broadly, the business community has a new coalition under [Minneapolis Works Together](#) – feel free to share with friends in the business community.

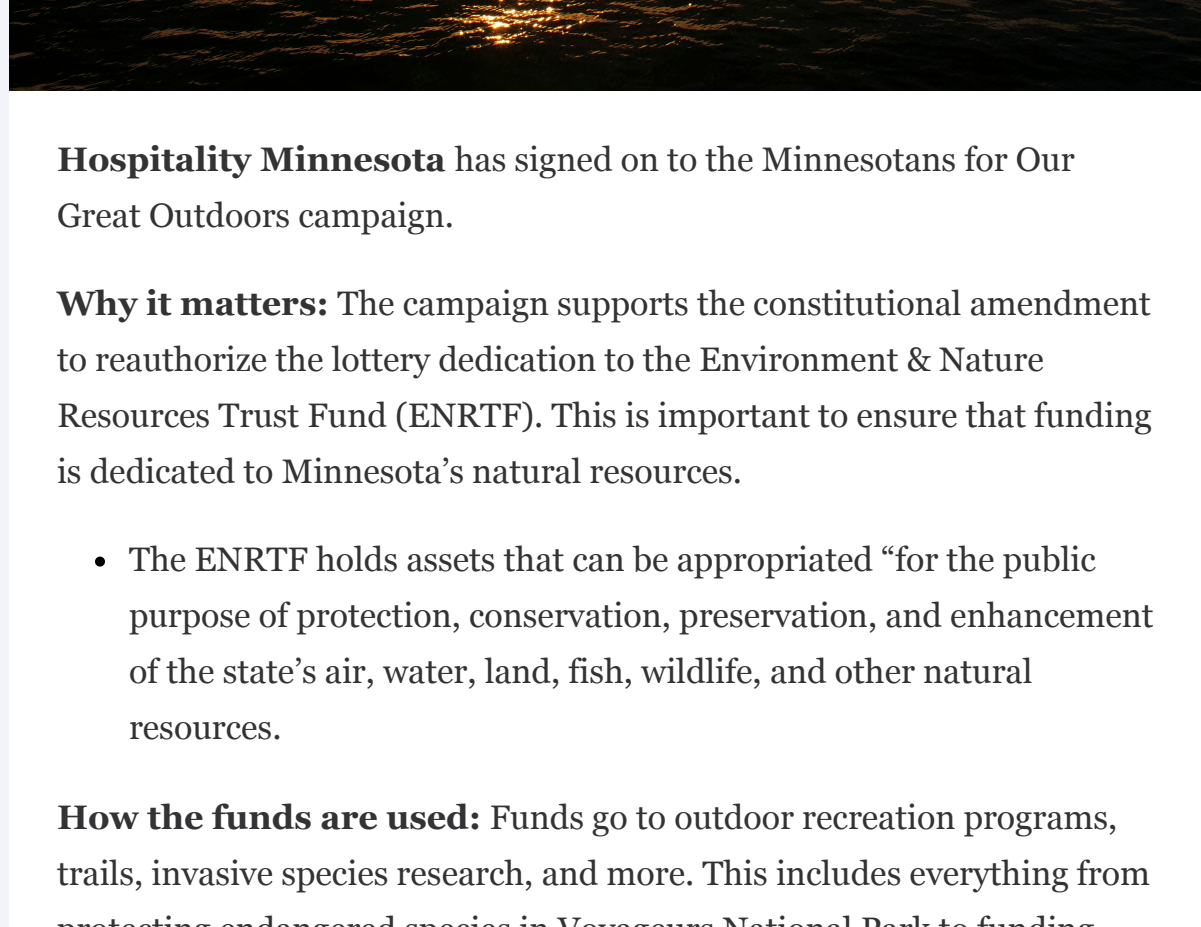
Paid Leave Program Hosting Listening Sessions



As Minnesota's Paid Leave program approaches, DEED is engaging with Minnesotan's early in the process as they build out the program. Hospitality Minnesota encourages individuals and employers to join the series of meetings hosted by local chambers across the state.

- **Go deeper:** [Find out if they are coming to a city near you here.](#)

Minnesotans for Our Great Outdoors Campaign



Hospitality Minnesota has signed on to the Minnesotans for Our Great Outdoors campaign.

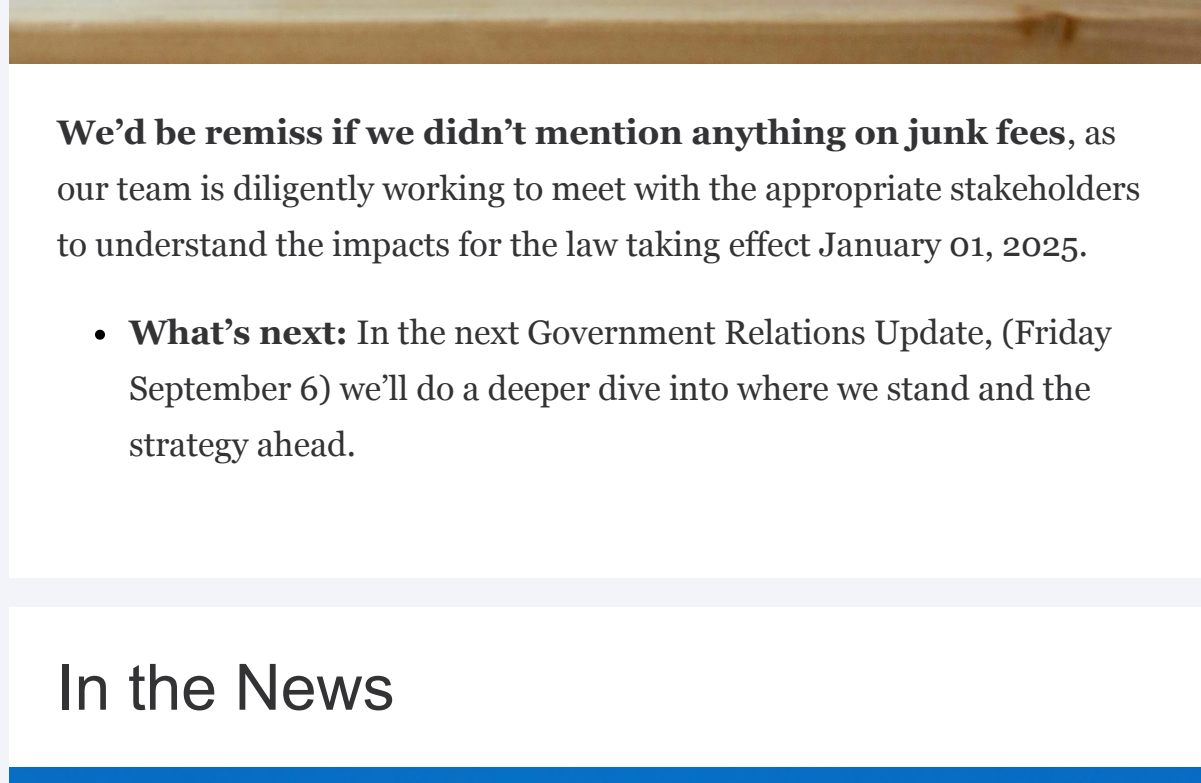
Why it matters: The campaign supports the constitutional amendment to reauthorize the lottery dedication to the Environment & Nature Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). This is important to ensure that funding is dedicated to Minnesota's natural resources.

- The ENRTF holds assets that can be appropriated "for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

How the funds are used: Funds go to outdoor recreation programs, trails, invasive species research, and more. This includes everything from protecting endangered species in Voyageurs National Park to funding pollinator-friendly lawn grants for homeowners to shoreline restoration projects throughout the state.

- **We need your support!** The Minnesotans for Our Great Outdoors are still in the process of growing the coalition of support as we encourage as many hospitality businesses as possible to show support. You can sign up to support the campaign by filling out this [endorsement form](#). You can also share stories about projects funded by the lottery by filling out [this form](#).

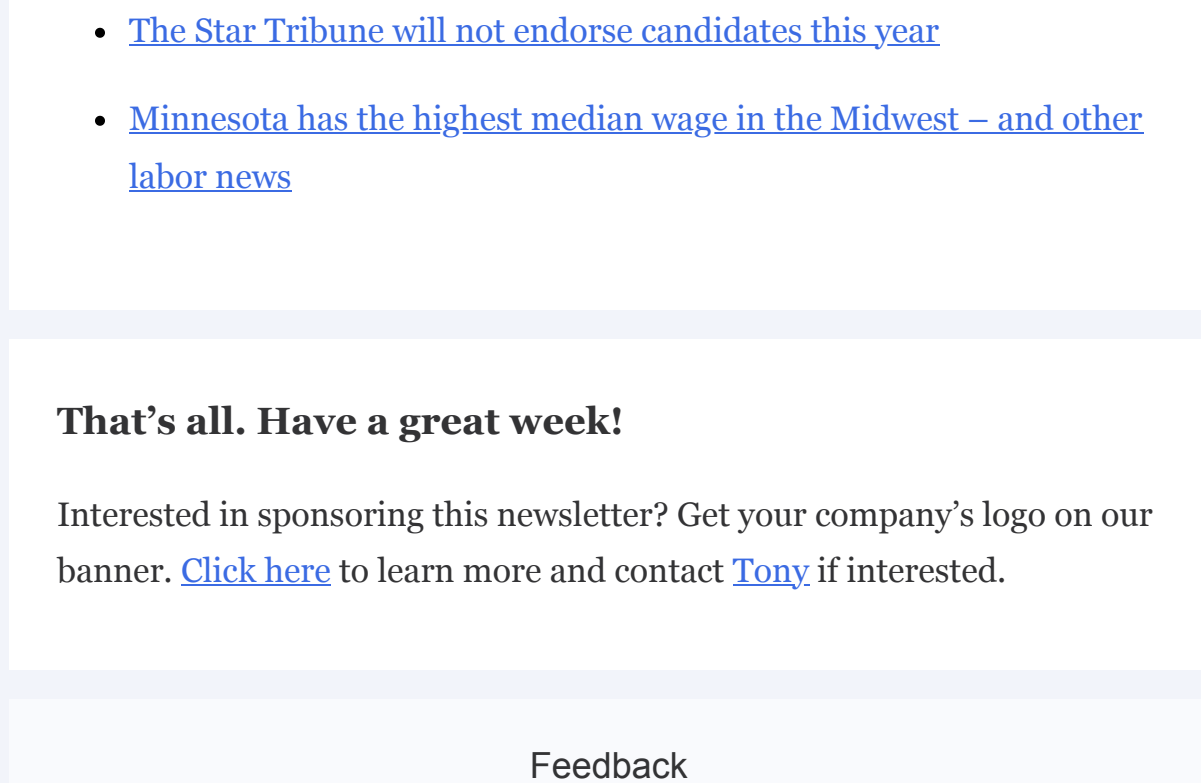
Junk Fees Update



We'd be remiss if we didn't mention anything on junk fees, as our team is diligently working to meet with the appropriate stakeholders to understand the impacts for the law taking effect January 01, 2025.

- **What's next:** In the next Government Relations Update, (Friday September 6) we'll do a deeper dive into where we stand and the strategy ahead.

In the News



- [George Latimer, St. Paul's longest-serving mayor, dies at 89](#)
- [Minnesota gets front-row role in Democratic National Convention with Walz on the presidential ticket](#)
- [The Star Tribune will not endorse candidates this year](#)
- [Minnesota has the highest median wage in the Midwest – and other labor news](#)

That's all. Have a great week!

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