



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

By Hanna Zinn • Oct 04, 2024

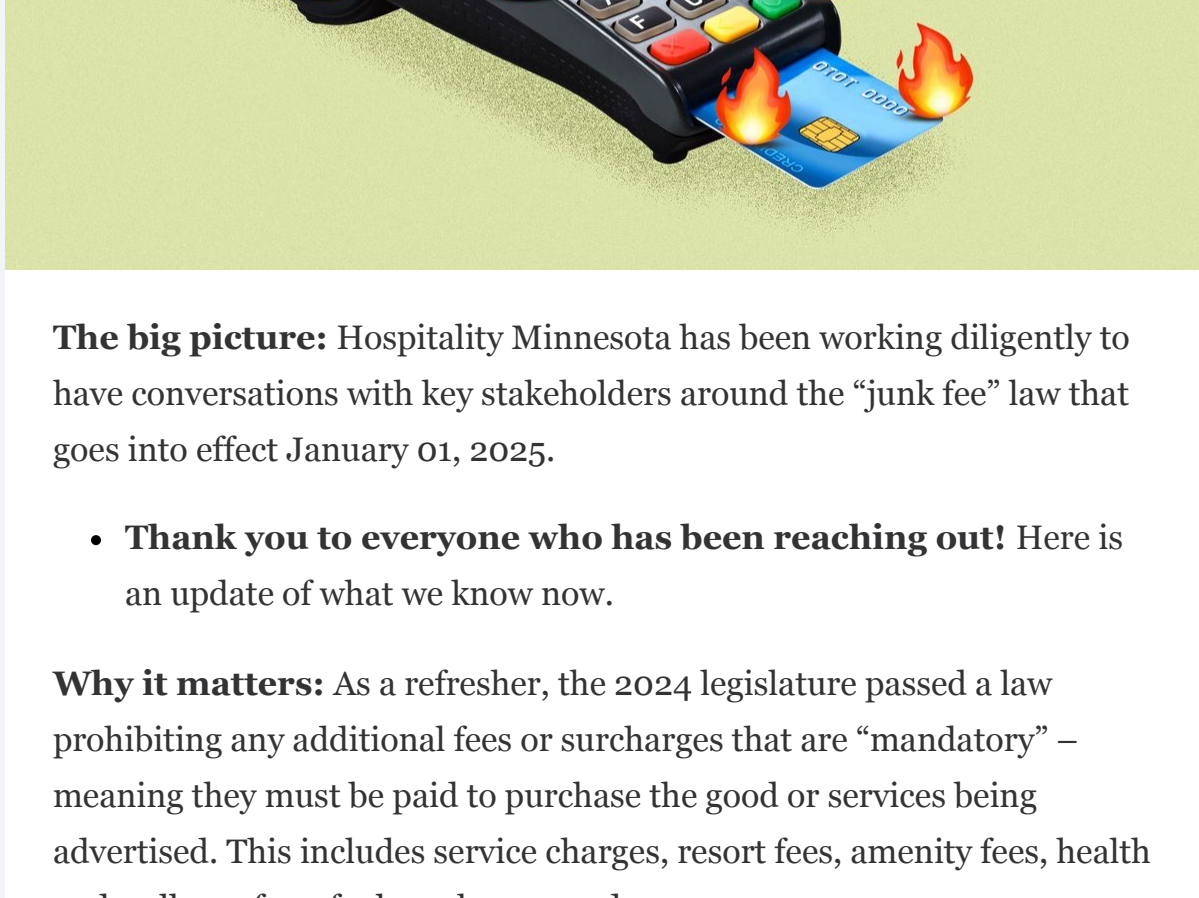
Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...815 words

**Welcome back, and happy October!**

Hello and thanks for reading my first GR Update as the Director of Government Relations for Hospitality Minnesota. The first full week after some transition time with Jill, has been spent meeting with member stakeholders and state agencies discussing HM's upcoming policy agenda as we head into the 2025 legislative session. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the upcoming weeks and months. Please reach out to me at anytime!

This edition of our GR Update focuses on an election preview, junk fees guidance updates, Labor Standards Board meetings, and more!

**Junk Fees Update**



**The big picture:** Hospitality Minnesota has been working diligently to have conversations with key stakeholders around the “junk fee” law that goes into effect January 01, 2025.

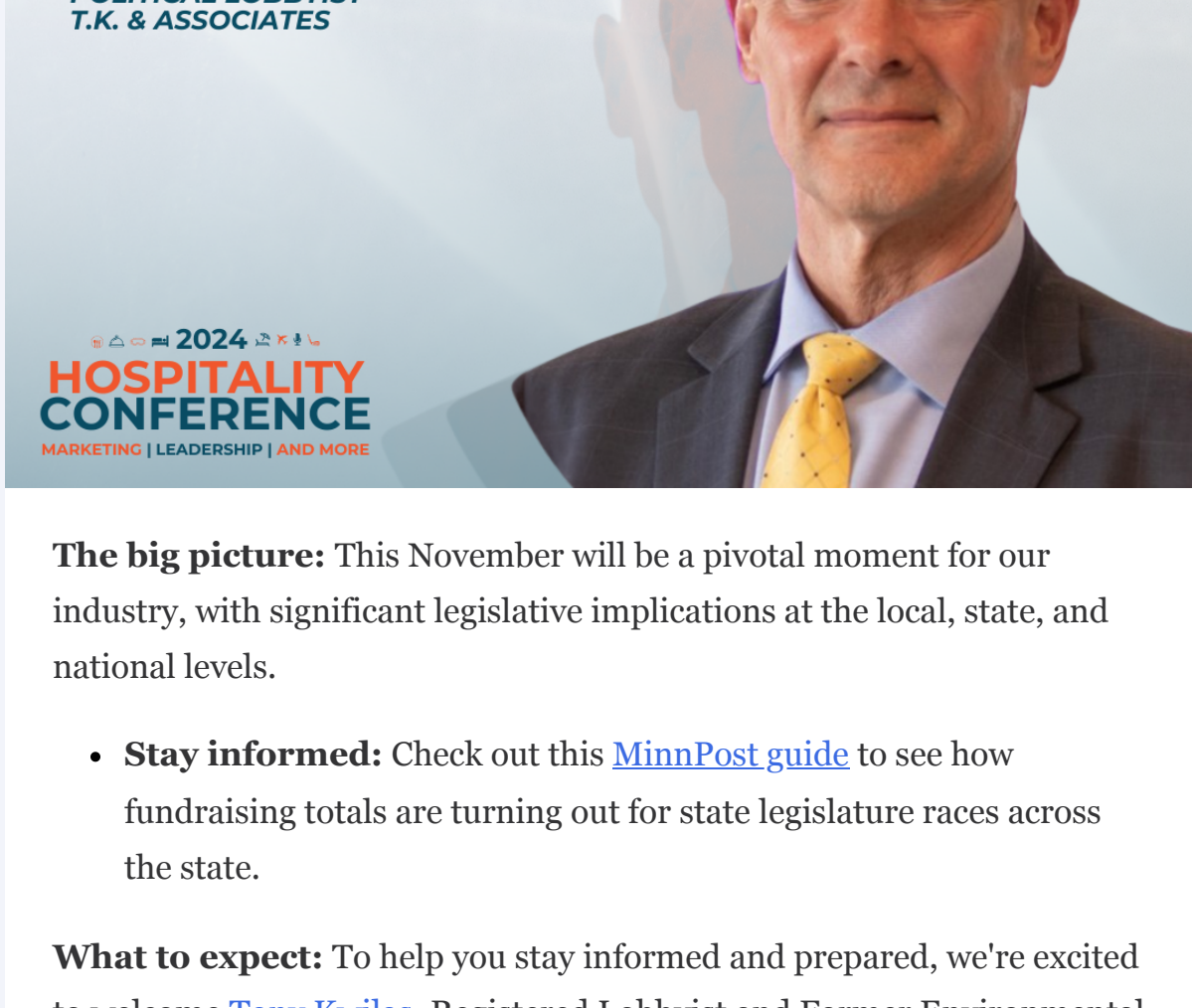
- **Thank you to everyone who has been reaching out!** Here is an update of what we know now.

**Why it matters:** As a refresher, the 2024 legislature passed a law prohibiting any additional fees or surcharges that are “mandatory” – meaning they must be paid to purchase the good or services being advertised. This includes service charges, resort fees, amenity fees, health and wellness fees, fuel surcharges and more.

- **Go deeper:** Hospitality Minnesota is working with agencies to have clarification on impact. The two main agencies we are working with are the Attorney General’s Office (main enforcement arm of the law) and the Department of Revenue. The Attorney General’s office has informed us they are in the final stages of developing their guidance, which means more information could be coming any day. The Department of Revenue has clarified that “fees” such as the delivery fee or tourism improvement district fee *are* in fact a tax and not subject to the ‘junk fee’ bill.

**What’s next:** Hospitality Minnesota is developing strategies for our members, as soon as the Attorney General releases their guidance, offering updates on how our members can be compliant with the law on Jan. 1. Finding more workable solutions will be a priority for Hospitality Minnesota in the 2025 legislative session.

**Election Update - Tony Kwilas Joins Hospitality Conference Line Up**



**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.

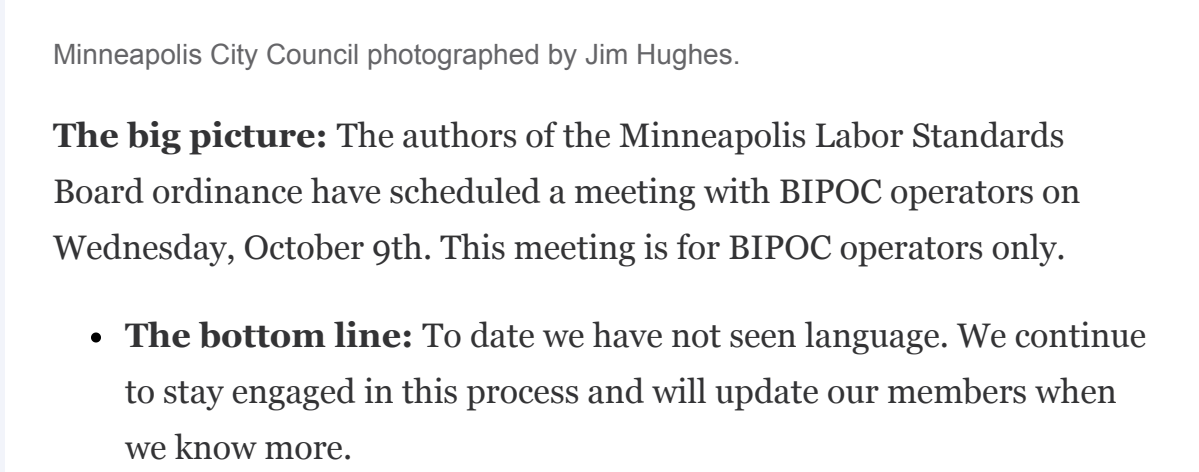
**What to expect:** To help you stay informed and prepared, we're excited to welcome [Tony Kwilas](#), Registered Lobbyist and Former Environmental Policy Director for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, to deliver a comprehensive Election Preview at the [2024 Hospitality Conference](#) at [Madden's on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

**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.

[Register Here!](#)

**Labor Standards Board Update**

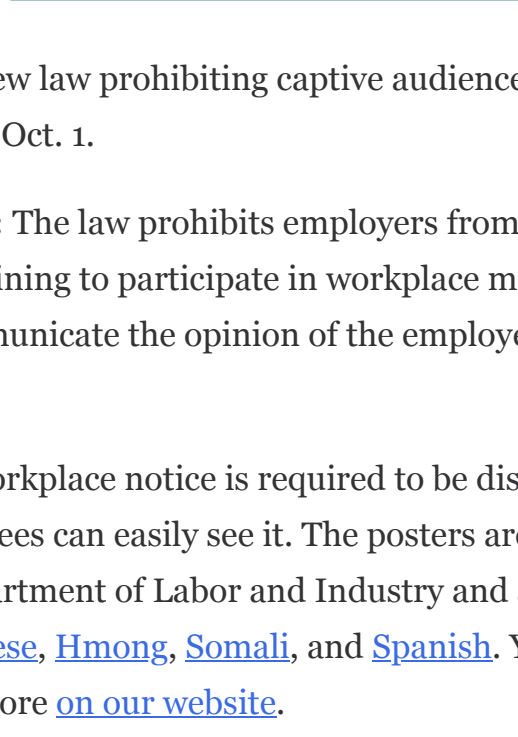


Minneapolis City Council photographed by Jim Hughes.

**The big picture:** The authors of the Minneapolis Labor Standards Board ordinance have scheduled a meeting with BIPOC operators on Wednesday, October 9th. This meeting is for BIPOC operators only.

- **The bottom line:** To date we have not seen language. We continue to stay engaged in this process and will update our members when we know more.

**Captive Audience Posters**

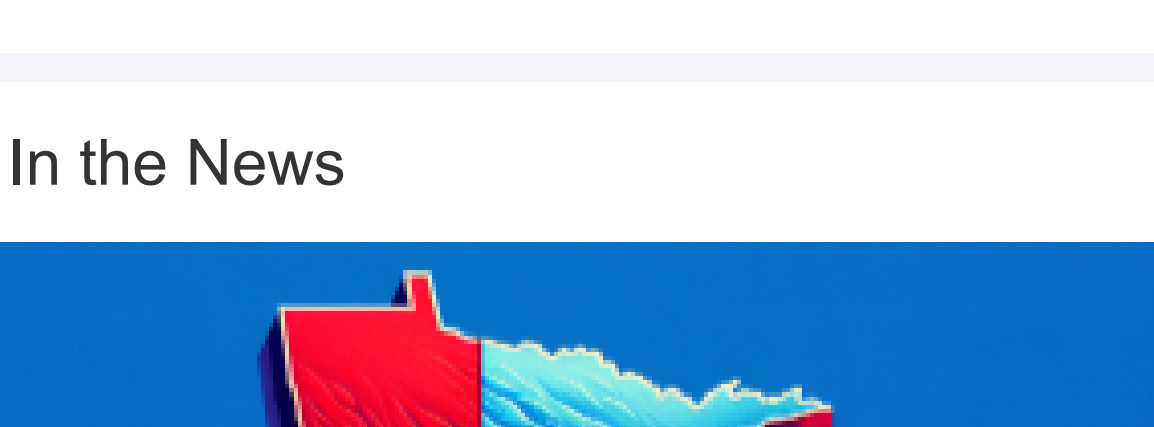


**What’s new:** A new law prohibiting captive audiences in workplaces went into effect on Oct. 1.

**The bottom line:** The law prohibits employers from penalizing employees for declining to participate in workplace meetings if the meeting is to communicate the opinion of the employer about religious or political matters.

- Yes, and: A workplace notice is required to be displayed in a location where employees can easily see it. The posters are available to print from the Department of Labor and Industry and are available in [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Hmong](#), [Somali](#), and [Spanish](#). You can access the posters and more [on our website](#).

**Upcoming Paid Leave Information Sessions**



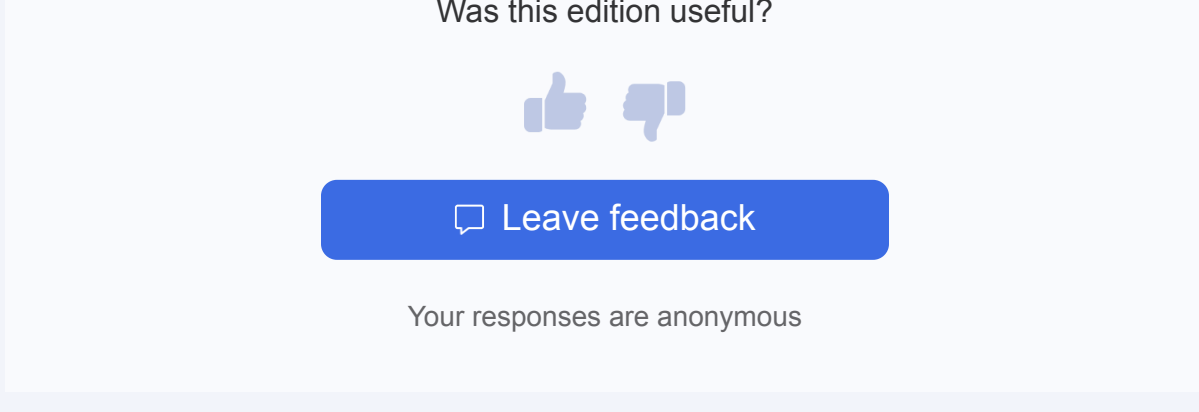
**The big picture:** Hospitality Minnesota is having conversations with the Paid Leave program directors to discuss the important hospitality exemption included in the law. We will share our updates as more information becomes available.

**Employer Roles and Responsibilities webinars:** To learn about employer roles and responsibilities under the Paid Leave program, including major milestones like quarterly wage detail reporting, sign up to attend an [Employer Engagement Webinar](#).

- **Thursday, October 10 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, October 16 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

[Register Here!](#)

**In the News**



- [Fewer customers, less revenue for Minnesota hospitality and tourism sector](#)
- [New York Times' top 50 restaurants spots features 2 Minneapolis spots](#)

**That’s all. Have a great week!**

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