

STATELINE MIDWEST



MIDWEST

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DEMOGRAPHIC TRUTHS, CONSEQUENCES

In many parts of the Midwest, birth rates are falling, people are leaving for other states and the population is aging; the result could be a difficult policy landscape for leaders

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

The big national headline from recently released U.S. Census results was this: Over the past decade, the nation's population grew at its slowest rate since the Great Depression.

Dig deeper, and the numbers become of even greater interest, and potential alarm, to the Midwest's legislators and other leaders.

"Everywhere, the aging population is growing," says William Frey, a demographer and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program.

"The difference between winners and losers, demographically, will be what we see in those younger years — whether there is growth or decline in the under-18 population, which then leads into labor-force participation."

For much of the Midwest, the

trends point to many communities being on the losing end.

With some exceptions, the region traditionally has not been a magnet for migrants, domestic or international, so its growth has depended on "natural" increases — more births than deaths.

But one of the more striking demographic shifts in recent years has been a nationwide narrowing of that birth-to-death ratio; in fact, Professor Kenneth Johnson says, nearly half of the nation's counties experienced natural decreases in the population in 2019 — even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Not only do you have fewer young people having babies, but the people left behind have all aged in place," says Johnson, a senior demographer at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy. "You get out 20 or 30 years, and you start seeing mortality rise. It becomes sort of a vicious cycle."

MORE SENIORS, FEWER WORKERS

One measure often used by demographers is what's known as the "old age dependency rate" — a calculation of the number of seniors compared to the number of working-age adults.

"It's moving upward all the time," Frey says of national trends. "And we've seen projections that it could go from 28 percent [today] to as high as 45 percent, depending on immigration numbers." (Higher immigration numbers lower the rate because immigrants tend to be of working age.)

In the 11-state Midwest, between 2010 and 2019, most counties lost population. In Illinois and Kansas, for instance, 91 percent and 86 percent of the counties, respectively, had declines in their number of residents (see map). This has been most likely to occur in rural areas not adjacent to a metropolitan region.

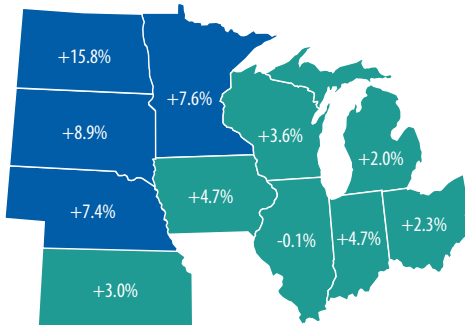
Along with fewer births and more deaths, another cause of these declines has been the loss of young people to domestic migration. Most states in the Midwest have lost residents, sometimes hundreds of thousands of them, to other states over the past decade (see map).

And there are the likely short- and long-term effects of the COVID pandemic — fewer births and, ultimately, declines in the working-age population.

"It pushes us in a direction that we were hoping to move away from," Minnesota state demographer Susan Brower says.

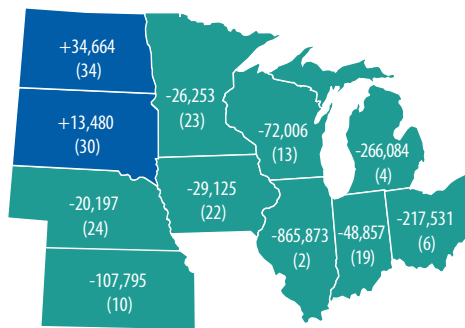
"It's going to take 16, 18 years to reach us, but it will be felt, and

% CHANGE IN TOTAL POPULATION IN
MIDWESTERN STATES: 2010-2020

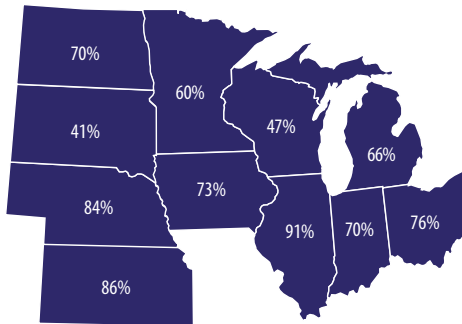


Lower than U.S. population growth of 7.4%
Higher than or same as U.S. population growth of 7.4%

ESTIMATES OF NET CHANGE IN STATE'S
POPULATION DUE TO DOMESTIC MIGRATION:
APRIL 1, 2010, TO JULY 1, 2019 (U.S. RANK)



ESTIMATED % OF STATE'S COUNTIES THAT LOST
POPULATION BETWEEN 2010 AND 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (bottom map also uses data from The Daily Yonder)

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Nebraska takes steps for potential construction of new prison as it deals with persistent overcrowding

by Mitch Arvidson (marvidson@csg.org)

Prison overcrowding is nothing new for the state of Nebraska and its legislators.

Now in his seventh year as a senator, Sen. John Stinner has seen proposal after proposal come the Legislature's way to deal with the problem.

"During my tenure, we've built about 800 different types of beds, whether they be community custody beds, minimum-security beds, or maximum-security beds," he says.

"We're just not catching up because the inflow of prisoners is at 100 to 200 per year. It just continues to be a situation where they're going to continue to build unless you can answer or stymie that inflow."

At the end of 2019, 5,546 prisoners were in state facilities designed to hold 3,535. The means Nebraska's prison custody population as a percent of capacity stood at 156.9 percent, the third-highest rate of overcapacity in the country.

This legislative session, Stinner and other lawmakers took steps to address persistent overcrowding by building more capacity. It's a move that bucks national trends, but that some state officials say is necessary for Nebraska's particular situation.

The state's new budget for capital construction projects (LB 383) includes close to \$15 million for the Department of Correctional Services to "prepare

designs and plans for a new multi-custody-level correctional facility." The state will also update a master facility plan from 2014 that analyzes demand for behavioral health, mental health and substance abuse services.

Finally, legislators set aside \$100 million in general funds for the potential construction of a new prison (LB 380). For such a facility to be built, another legislative vote, along with additional appropriations, would be required.

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services inspector general Doug Koebernick has said the state should not expect diversion programs or other reforms to dramatically reduce its prison population. The state already has a relatively low incarceration rate: 289 inmates per 100,000 residents, among the lowest numbers in the country. In recent years, too, the Legislature has passed criminal justice reforms — for example, changes in sentencing laws and a strengthening of post-release supervision.

Still, Nebraska Sen. Justin Wayne sees room for further improvement.

"You have people who do zero to five [years]," Wayne says. "They get out, 30 percent of them reoffend in Nebraska, and the next sentence is 10 to 20 [years]."

His preferred policy response: invest more in re-entry services that reduce recidivism and that stop individuals from serving longer sentences in prison.

"Every 5 percent reduction [in recidivism] is about \$3 million saved on corrections, and it greatly reduces overcrowding," he says.

One way or another, the state is quickly approaching a major decision point.

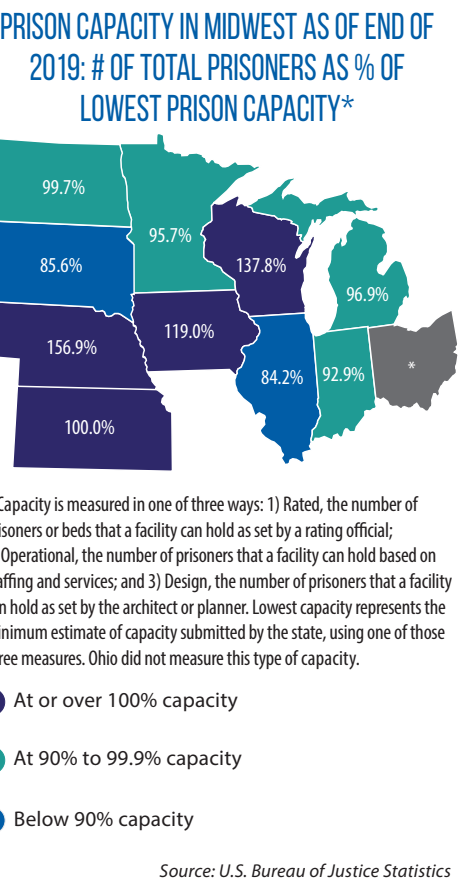
The Nebraska State Penitentiary, built in 1869, is nearing the end of the 50-year useful lifespan that builders gave it after major renovations in 1980.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts has said the Legislature has two options: fix the old facility for an estimated \$200 million, or build a new \$230 million prison. But at a time when states such as California, Connecticut and Missouri are closing prisons, the idea of building a new one in Nebraska has been met with resistance.

Stinner says that this year's legislative actions are part of a three-pronged approach in Nebraska: reform the criminal justice system, prepare to replace aging facilities, and deal with overcrowding over the short and medium term.

"The step-by-step approach is one of building confidence," he adds.

"When we talked to the architects and the engineers, they said its going to take us at least a year [to design and plan] after you find the site. ... Hopefully with the master facility plan, we can move ahead with confidence that we've



taken care of and done the appropriate due diligence and provide a better cost estimate."

Mitch Arvidson serves as CSG Midwest staff liaison to the Midwestern Legislative Conference's Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee.

MIDWEST-CANADA RELATIONS

North Dakota vaccinating truckers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan in cross-border cooperation

by Jon Davis (jdavis@csg.org)

Under a first-of-its-kind cross-border COVID-19 vaccination program that began in late April, the state of North Dakota is providing vaccinations to truckers from Saskatchewan and Manitoba as they transport goods between the United States and Canada.

The first site for delivering these doses was a highway rest stop along northbound Interstate 29 near Drayton, about 30 miles from one of the state's 18 border crossings with Canada. State officials said a second site near the border with Saskatchewan would open in May.

"With adequate vaccine supplies and all North Dakotans having access to vaccine while Canada is dealing with a vaccine shortage, we want to do our part to ensure essential workers from Canada who are frequently traveling through our state are vaccinated," North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum said in April.

"The timely and effective administration of vaccines is essential for public health and the eventual safe reopening of our shared border."

Along that shared border throughout the Midwest, there are 29 ports of entry for trucks in North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan on the U.S. side and

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario on the Canadian side. More than 2.5 million truck crossings occurred at these ports in 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

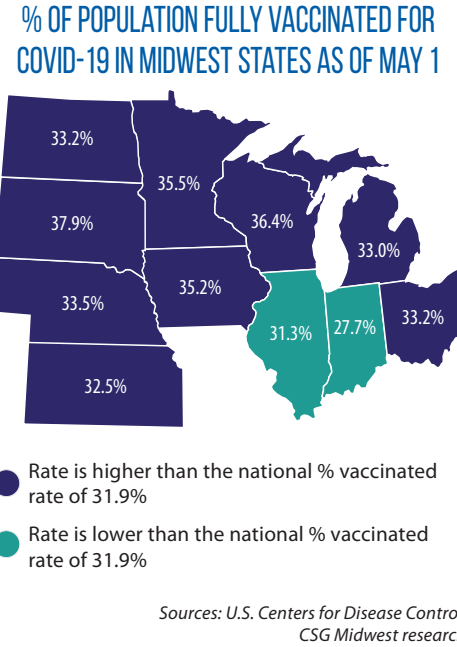
Burgum announced the Essential Worker Cross-Border Vaccination Initiative, first with Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister and then with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe.

According to the memorandum of understanding between Manitoba and North Dakota, truckers must be able to cross into the U. S. and return to Canada without a requirement to quarantine under (Canadian) federal public health rules, possess a valid Manitoba Class 1 license, and be on assignment at the time of vaccination.

North Dakota's pre-registration system for vaccinations is being used to limit crowding and lost time, as well as to aid in the scheduling of staff and delivery of doses.

North Dakota is administering vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and Health Canada and providing both first and second shots, along with proof of vaccination, to eligible drivers. The state is also sending vaccination records to the U.S. federal government and Manitoba.

"Manitoba is proud to partner with



% OF MIDWEST PROVINCES' POPULATION THAT HAD RECEIVED TWO DOSES OF A COVID-19 VACCINE, AS OF APRIL 24*	
Province	Percent
Alberta	6.1%
Manitoba	3.7%
Ontario	2.5%
Saskatchewan	5.2%
* The cumulative nationwide rate was 2.6% as of April 24.	
Source: Health Canada	

North Dakota on this innovative strategy," Pallister said in the April 20 statement.

Mike Nowatzki, a spokesman for Gov. Burgum, says North Dakota cleared the program with the White House COVID Response Team in early April; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also gave North Dakota approval to administer U.S. vaccine doses to Canadians.

"Essentially if they're in our state, we can vaccinate them," Nowatzki says.

State and provincial officials estimate that up to 4,000 truckers may be eligible to get vaccinated under the cross-border program.

On April 21, the first day of the program, 65 people were vaccinated: 62 Canadians and three North Dakotans, Nowatzki says.

Jon Davis is CSG Midwest's liaison to the Midwestern Legislative Conference's Health & Human Services Committee.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

North Dakota's new vision for Legacy Fund: Invest in infrastructure, help entrepreneurs access capital

by Laura Tomaka (ltomaka@csg.org)

Eleven years ago, North Dakota voters approved a legislative-initiated plan to create a Legacy Fund.

Today, the estimated value of that fund has grown to well over \$8 billion, and legislators believe they found ways this year to make the use of it more impactful and further-reaching.

"[It] will be a way to help fund some of our homegrown industries," Rep. Mike Nathe says of one of three Legacy Fund-related bills passed this year.

"We've invested all over the world. This is bringing the money back home."

Under that 2010 constitutional amendment, 30 percent of revenues from North Dakota's tax on oil and natural gas production must be deposited into the fund.

"[It] was created to save money for future generations so that when the oil does subside and go away, we are still benefiting," says Nathe, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

But he envisions an even greater legacy after this year's passage of HB 1425.

To date, only about 1 percent of investments from the Legacy Fund has stayed in North Dakota.

That's likely to change under the new law, which requires the State Investment Board to "give preference to qualified investment firms and financial institutions with a presence [in North Dakota]."

Accompanying this new statutory language are new targets to encourage in-state investments. One goal is that 10 percent of the fund's principal go toward equity investments within the state. In turn, lawmakers want some of that money going to equity and venture capital funds that invest specifically in homegrown companies.

"North Dakota has always been at the bottom when it comes to available capital in the country," Nathe explains.

An infusion of more capital, he adds, will foster sustainable, long-term growth in sectors such as agriculture and technology.

Another new target for the Legacy Fund: 10 percent of fixed-income investments staying in North Dakota. This goal will be reached, in part, by financing local infrastructure projects. A long, varied list of projects qualify: improving water and sewer systems, fixing roads and bridges, strengthening the electricity grid, and improving communications systems.

Local governments will get access to

low-interest loans for these projects via the Legacy Fund.

And Nathe sees a benefit for the entire state.

"[It] will have positive economic impacts that go beyond your basic return on investment," Nathe says. "We're talking more jobs, higher wages and increased tax revenue."

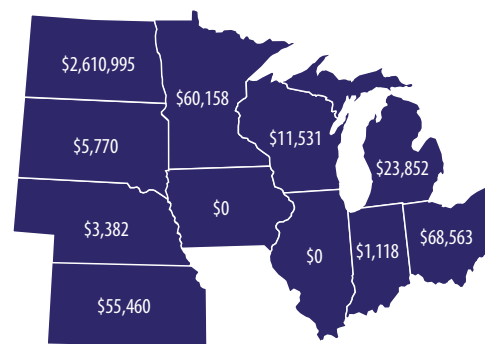
Legislators also approved two other bills this session related to Legacy Fund earnings this session.

- HB 1431 creates the largest infrastructure bonding package in state history. Up to \$680 million will be available, with most of it being allocated for two flood-control projects. Money also will be made available to repair bridges and roads and to create a revolving loan fund for local water projects. Lastly, \$50 million will go toward the construction of a development center for agricultural products at North Dakota State University.

- HB 1380 provides a framework for how earnings from the Legacy Fund will be used in the future: repayment of infrastructure bonds, tax relief, financing the state employees retirement system, highway and road projects, research and innovation, and workforce development.

Legislators were constitutionally barred from spending money from the fund until 2017. Starting that year,

STATE REVENUE COLLECTED IN SEVERANCE TAXES, 2019 (TAXES ON EXTRACTION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS)



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (using data from U.S. Census Bureau)

earnings began being transferred to the general fund, and some money from it has been used to balance the state's budget.

Mostly, though, the Legacy Fund has been growing and growing. Now, the state has a clearer plan on how to invest and use earnings.

"The number of phone calls that I've received about this have been overwhelming," Nathe says. "I'm excited to see how this all plays out in the next few years."

Laura Tomaka helps CSG Midwest provide staff support to the Midwestern Legislative Conference's Fiscal Affairs Committee.



North Dakota Rep. Mike Nathe

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Illinois laws encourage local food production and sales, analyze gaps in agriculture-based opportunities

by Carolyn Orr (carolyn@strawridgefarm.us)

Soon after joining the Illinois General Assembly (in late 2015), Illinois Rep. Sonya Harper began focusing on what she calls "localizing our food shed."

It's why a representative from the Midwest's largest city, Chicago, has found herself sponsoring multiple agriculture-related bills, and she says events of the last year have only sharpened her interest in this policy area. "If the pandemic showed us one thing, it was the importance of our food supply."

Among her legislative goals: boost local economies, and improve residents' health outcomes and economic opportunities. Most recently, too, Harper helped get legislation passed to take a closer look at economic obstacles for farmers — particularly those who have faced historic disadvantages.

URBAN AG ZONES AND HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES

One of Harper's hopes is that urban agriculture becomes part of Illinois' "localized food shed." She sponsored legislation three years ago allowing Illinois jurisdictions to create urban agricultural zones, with a mix of tax

benefits and savings on water rates for individuals and organizations that grow agricultural products within a municipality's boundaries.

"[It] provides an incentive to revive vacant lands and address food desert areas," Harper says.

Also in 2018, the General Assembly established the Healthy Food Incentives Fund. The bill provides \$500,000 (subject to appropriation) to double the amount of benefits available from the U.S. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program; to

qualify for these benefits, purchases must be made at farmers' markets or other direct-to-producer venues.

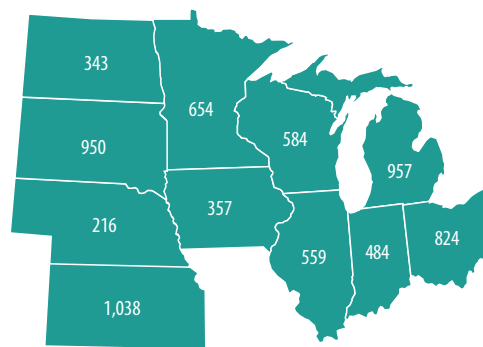
STUDY OF DISPARITIES IN ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

Another agriculture-related bill, but one with a much different purpose, became law in Illinois earlier this year.

Sponsored by Harper, the Farmer Equity Act (SB 1792) requires a state study of disparities between Black and White farmers. For example, what are the gaps in income levels, land ownership, and access to loans and capital?

A final report is due next year. Other socially disadvantaged groups of

OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AS DEFINED BY FEDERAL LAW, IN MIDWEST



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

farmers may also be part of the study.

Federal law defines socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice "because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities."

Illinois' legislative actions occurred at around the same time that the U.S. Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, which sets aside \$5 million in aid for minority farmers. That provision, though a small part of the federal law, has received considerable attention, as well as some criticism.

However, proponents say the new aid program rightly recognizes the impact that decades of discriminatory government policies have had on farmers of color.

For example, minority farmers were locked out of the first Agricultural Adjustment Act from the 1930s, limiting their ability to access credit and markets. Likewise, loans and other support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture were often delayed or denied to people of color.

U.S. Black farmers, who make up 25 percent of socially disadvantaged farmers, have lost more than 12 million acres of farmland over the past century. And only 45,000 of the 3.4 million farmers today are Black; that's down from 1 million a century ago.

The American Rescue Plan provides debt relief for USDA loans to socially disadvantaged borrowers. It also provides grants and loans to improve land access and establishes a racial equity commission within the USDA.

In Illinois, meanwhile, legislators will await their state-specific study on racial and ethnic disparities within agriculture.

Carolyn Orr serves as CSG Midwest staff liaison to the Midwestern Legislative Conference's Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.



Illinois Rep. Sonya Harper

NATIONAL STUDY SHOWS WIDE DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The COVID-19 pandemic set back enrollment and investments in state-funded preschool, and wide disparities in access to high-quality early learning remain across the country, according to the most recent “State of Preschool Yearbook,” a national study published annually by the National Institute for Early Education.

For many years, the study’s findings have shown a continuing rise in access and funding. For example, since 2002, state investments in preschool have more than doubled (when adjusting for inflation), and the percentage of 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool has risen from 14 percent to 34 percent. But access across the country has largely remained the same for the past few years (even prior to the pandemic), and preliminary estimates for 2020-2021 show that enrollment and spending actually fell.

“Reductions in preschool enrollment occurred for two main reasons — parents did not want to enroll children (for a variety of reasons), and state preschool budgets were cut,” the report’s authors say. “We are optimistic that the demand for preschool will rebound in fall 2021. ... However, not all states are preparing to reinstate pre-pandemic levels of public funding for preschool in future school years.”

The institute’s study also provides state-by-state comparative data and profiles. Here are some notable findings for the Midwest:

- **Wisconsin** and **Iowa** have among the highest rates of 4-year-olds enrolled in state-funded prekindergarten. In Wisconsin, nearly all school districts offer kindergarten to 4-year-olds and get funding from the state for it. Likewise, Iowa’s Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is available to 4-year-olds, and nearly all local school districts participate. In both states, the funding formula is based on K-12 student aid; participating districts receive a per-student amount equal to about half that for K-12 pupils.
- In most states, enrollment of 3-year-olds in state-funded prekindergarten trails far behind 4-year-olds. One exception: **Illinois**, where about 22 percent of 3-year-olds are enrolled, second highest rate in the nation among the 50 states. The state-funded Preschool for All prioritizes access for young children from low-income families and/or who are at risk of academic failure.
- **Michigan** was one of only six states (and the only one in the Midwest) to meet all 10 of the institute’s standards for high-quality early childhood education. Those include curriculum supports, maximum class sizes of 20 or fewer students, bachelor’s degree requirements for teachers, professional development and specialized training for staff, and student screenings and referrals.
- In nine of the Midwest’s 11 states, at least some 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in state prekindergarten, as defined by the institute. **Indiana** and **South Dakota**, while supporting preschool education in some way, did not have programs that met the institute’s criteria. The criteria include whether the program is funded, controlled and directed by the state; whether early-childhood education is the primary focus; and whether a group learning experience is offered.

% OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PREKINDERGARTEN (2019-2020)*		
State	4-year-olds	3-year-olds
Illinois	33%	22%
Indiana	*	*
Iowa	66%	4%
Kansas	30%	4%
Michigan	32%	0%
Minnesota	10%	1%
Nebraska	34%	16%
North Dakota	11%	0%
Ohio	11%	1%
South Dakota	*	*
Wisconsin	72%	1%

* Indiana and South Dakota did not have programs that met the institute’s criteria for state prekindergarten.

Source: The National Institute for Early Education Research

CHANGES IN WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LAWS HELP FIRST-RESPONDERS GET ACCESS TO PTSD TREATMENT

A new law in **Wisconsin** aims to ensure that the state’s first-responders get the treatment they need to recover from post-traumatic stress disorder. With the passage of SB 11 in April, the payment of worker’s compensation benefits will be allowed if a police officer or firefighter gets a PTSD diagnosis from a licensed mental health professional. Wisconsin’s previous standard had left many first-responders without access to the benefits and, as a result, treatment.

In a 2017 national study of first-responder deaths, the Ruderman Family Foundation found that more police officers and firefighters had died by suicide due to mental illness (including PTSD and depression) than in the line of duty.

Three years ago, **Minnesota** legislators passed a measure (HF 3873) to remove obstacles that were keeping first-responders from getting treatment via the state’s workers’ compensation system. Under that law, PTSD was deemed “an occupational disease” that “shall be presumed to have been due to the nature of employment.”



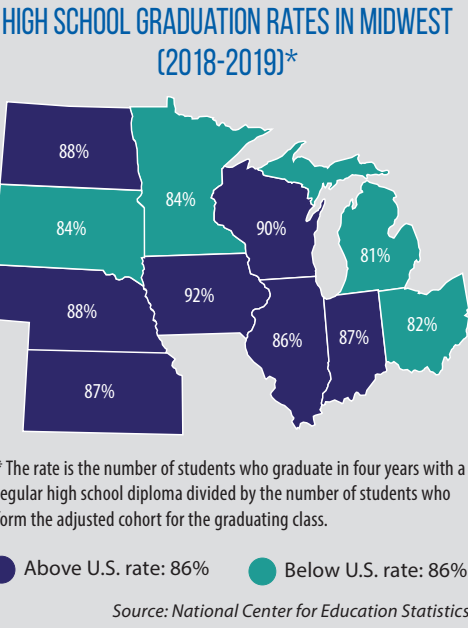
NORTH DAKOTA OPENS NEW LEARNER-CENTERED PATHWAYS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

In a move that Gov. Doug Burgum calls a “monumental victory for **North Dakota** students,” the state is giving local school districts greater flexibility and autonomy over what they require for high school graduation.

Passed with near-unanimous legislative support, SB 2196 reflects a multi-year effort in North Dakota to create personalized, competency-based graduation pathways. Under the new law, all districts in the state will be able to propose a waiving of certain instructional- /seat-time requirements in favor of locally driven policies that emphasize a student’s mastery of course content and academic skills.

The North Dakota Board of Education is charged with developing a certified learning continuum that will serve as the foundation for the state’s new competency-based model. Districts’ new graduation policies will be created and reviewed based on this learning continuum. Supporters of SB 2196 say it will open new work-based learning opportunities for young people, advance career and technical education, and enrich learning by allowing students to pursue their particular interests and passions.

A second Midwestern state, **Indiana**, also will soon offer new graduation pathways. Starting with the class of 2023, students can pursue one of three options: a regular diploma; a pathway that emphasizes employability skills through the completion of a project-, service- or work-based learning experience; or a pathway that focuses on postsecondary-ready competencies. Indiana’s school districts have the option of creating and seeking approval from the state for local graduation pathways.



MIDWEST STATES AT CENTER OF LEGAL QUESTIONS OVER ABORTION, DOWN SYNDROME DIAGNOSES

Can a state ban abortions being performed because the fetus has been diagnosed with Down syndrome? Can doctors be punished for violating the ban? Those questions have been at the center of a legal battle in **Ohio**, as well as a new law enacted in **South Dakota**.

In April, the Sixth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld, by a 9-7 vote, an Ohio law (HB 214 from 2017) that makes it a fourth-degree felony to perform an abortion, if the doctor knows the pregnant woman sought the procedure, “in whole or in part,” due to a test result or prenatal diagnosis indicating Down syndrome. Under the law, too, the physician’s medical license must be revoked. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the court ruled that the state’s legitimate reasons for enacting the law outweighed the “minor burdens” on a woman’s protected right to an abortion. The **Indiana** and **North Dakota** legislatures also have passed similar laws in recent years — the former having been blocked from taking effect by the Seventh Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, the latter having not faced a legal challenge, according to the Lozier Institute. In the Indiana case, judges ruled that the law violated a woman’s constitutional right to a pre-viability abortion.

In March, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem signed HB 1110, which makes it a felony for doctors to knowingly perform an abortion that has been sought due to the possibility of Down syndrome in an unborn child.

Another policy option for states is to ensure that all women and families receive accurate, up-to-date, evidence-based information about Down syndrome when receiving a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis. Six Midwestern states — Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota — have passed such laws, according to the National Down Syndrome Society.



WHAT'S GOOD FOR WATER QUALITY CAN BE GOOD FOR FARMERS' BOTTOM LINES

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

When Brad Redlin talks with farmers about getting involved in Minnesota's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, part of the pitch has always been the chance to protect the environment and get some regulatory certainty in return.

But now he has a third way to sell the program: It's a way to improve your bottom line.

For the last two years, the state has conducted studies comparing the net profits of farmers certified in the program vs. those who were not. Last year, the profits of certified farmers were 18 percent higher, an average of \$40,000 per operation; in 2019, they were 20 percent higher, an average of \$19,000 per farm.

"Yes, we can tell our growers about things like phosphorus reductions," says Redlin, who manages the program for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. "But equally important is the idea of being able to tell them what it means for their finances."

The voluntary program began as a pilot initiative in 2014; a year later, the Legislature recommended that it be expanded statewide.

As of March 2021, 1,038 Minnesota farms totaling more than 734,000 acres had been certified as effectively mitigating risks to water quality. More than 2,000 new

conservation practices have been put in place on operations of all types and sizes. One sign of the program's success: Gov. Tim Walz has made it a priority to reach 1 million enrolled acres by next year. And the state regularly analyzes the impact of the program, with researchers finding that:

- 216 million pounds of soil have been kept on Minnesota fields annually; and
- 76.2 million pounds of sediment and 47,878 pounds of phosphorus are being prevented from entering Minnesota's waters every year.

Along with protecting water quality, and improving their bottom lines, the state's certified farmers are helping withdraw greenhouse-gas emissions from the atmosphere.

"We're out there to improve water quality, but everything has co-benefits," Redlin says. "If some new perennial vegetation gets planted in response to the water quality challenge, you just created some wildlife habitat and you sequestered carbon as well."

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture serves as the lead state agency for the Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, but it involves a collaboration among many entities, inside and outside of state government. Conservation specialists from

the state's local soil and water conservation districts help farmers develop certification plans; the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding assistance, and the state has a formal partnership with the member-owned cooperative Land O'Lakes to promote the program.

Grants of up to \$5,000, at a cost-share of 75 percent, are offered to producers seeking certification.

Once a field is assessed and a site-specific plan is developed, any number of new conservation practices may be implemented. Among the most common: the use of cover crops, adoption of a nutrient-management plan, improvements in tile drainage and irrigation water management, and the construction of grassed waterways.

More important than any single practice, Redlin says, is the idea of "performance maximization."

"What we do when we work with a grower is look at every parcel on that farm, every point of management of it," he says.

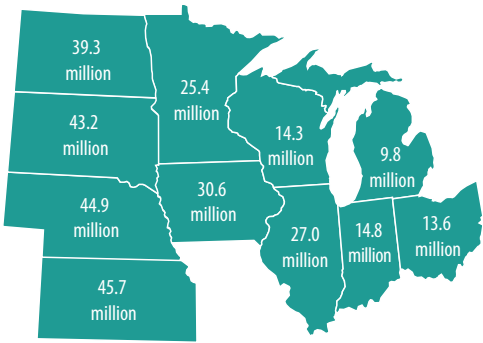
"How many crops are in your rotation? What about tillage? What fertilizers and protection chemicals are you using? What's the drainage system?"

He believes this holistic, individualized approach explains why certified farmers are seeing higher profit levels.

"It's about maximizing investment in inputs vs. what you're going to pull off that land," Redlin adds.

The certification period lasts 10 years,

TOTAL LAND IN FARMS, 2020: # OF ACRES



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

during which time at least one review/audit of the farm's operation must be conducted.

For that decade-long period, a certified farmer is automatically deemed in compliance with any new state agricultural water quality laws or rules. That regulatory certainty also likely extends to federal regulations because of involvement in the program by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the entity that oversees the U.S. Clean Water Act.

South Dakota Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack has chosen agriculture conservation as the focus of his Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair's Initiative for 2021. A series of articles will appear in *Stateline Midwest* this year in support of this initiative.

MLC Chair's Initiative



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

QUESTION | Do all states use total-population numbers when redistricting, or do some exclude certain populations?

Over the past decade, the question of "who to count" for purposes of apportionment and redistricting has been the subject of a U.S. Supreme Court case, back-and-forth opinions among two presidents, and activity in state legislatures.

Currently, all states use total-population figures from the U.S. census as the basis for drawing congressional and state legislative districts. This practice is rooted in the language of the U.S. Constitution, existing federal law, and some states' own constitutions and statutes. The "total population" count (which includes minors, noncitizens and prisoners) is used to apportion the 435 U.S. House seats among the 50 states, this same data is then typically used by states for intrastate apportionment and redistricting.

There are some exceptions, however.

As noted in the U.S. Supreme Court's 2016 *Evenwel v. Abbott* decision, "the constitutions and statutes of 10 states ... authorize the removal of certain groups from the total-population apportionment base." At the time, one of those states was **Kansas**, which required an adjustment of census numbers to exclude nonresident military personnel and college students. In addition, if these individuals were from Kansas, the state had to ensure they would be counted at their permanent residences. In 2019, Kansas voters approved a legislative-initiated amendment removing this constitutional language.

Washington's Constitution still excludes nonresident military personnel; Hawaii specifies that only "permanent residents" be counted; and New Hampshire authorizes its legislature to make "suitable adjustments ... on account of nonresidents temporarily residing in this state."

Additionally, California, Delaware, Maryland and New York stipulate that nonresidents of the state being housed in their prisons not be part of the population count for redistricting.

A separate, but related, question for states is this: How should resident prisoners be counted — at their place of confinement or at their last address prior to incarceration?

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the U.S. Census Bureau counts incarcerated people as residents of the towns where they are confined; most states then use this information for drawing state legislative and U.S. congressional districts. However, with the passage in February of HB 3653, **Illinois** joined nine other states in ending this practice. Starting in 2030, Illinois residents in state prisons must be counted based on their last address prior to confinement.

Nebraska is one of three U.S. states with constitutional language that seeks to block the counting of non-U.S. citizens: "The basis of apportionment [for state legislative districts] shall be the population excluding aliens," its Constitution says in wording that dates back to 1920.

In reality, though, the exclusion does not occur: Official U.S. census does not ask about citizenship status, and certain types of block-level data on citizenship are not available to states. Still, a Nebraska legislative proposal from 2018 (it did not pass) sought to put that state's "alien exclusion" language into practice.

First, LB 1115 called for all of Nebraska's state-level political districts, not just legislative districts, to be drawn based on the "total population ... less the noncitizen population." Second, LB 1115 identified



how Nebraska could implement such an exclusion even if citizenship status was not part of the official census. It called for the state to use the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates of noncitizens.

The Trump administration sought to add the citizenship question and to exclude unauthorized immigrants from the census. These efforts failed, and in early 2021, President Joe Biden issued an executive order revoking his predecessor's actions.

The *Evenwel* case from five years ago challenged Texas' use of total-population numbers for redistricting. The plaintiffs argued that the drawing of state legislative districts should be based on the number of eligible voters, rather than total population. In an unanimous decision, the court ruled in favor of Texas. Left undecided was whether states could choose to base redistricting on the voter-eligible population.

Question of the Month response by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org), publications manager for CSG Midwest, which provides individualized research assistance to legislators, legislative staff and other government officials. This section highlights a research question received by CSG Midwest. Inquiries can be sent to csgm@csg.org.



POWER UP: HOW THE MIDWEST IS PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR RISE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

by Jon Davis (jdavis@csg.org)

California-based Tesla may grab most of the attention paid to electric cars, but the Midwest is positioning itself to be a leader in the electric vehicle (EV) realm.

In 2021, state legislators have passed or are still considering bills to boost EV manufacturing, institute fees for the owners of these vehicles to share in road maintenance (since they don't pay any gas taxes), and encourage adoption of EV fleets and infrastructure.

Since January 2011, EV sales have increased 364 percent nationwide; in the Midwest they've jumped anywhere from 235 percent in Kansas to 430 percent in North Dakota (see top map).

Even so, EVs still comprise a small share of the overall automotive market. An IHS Markit study released in February reports that EVs made up just 0.8 percent of new-vehicle registrations in the Midwest in 2020 (1.5 percent in the Chicago market) and will be just 3.5 percent of new-vehicle registrations in the United States this year. But they'll be at least 10 percent of new registrations by 2025, the report says.

That means more EVs must be built, and some will come from new plants in the Midwest. Rivian Motors will begin producing electric pickup trucks later this year in a former Nissan plant in Normal, Ill., while the start-up Lordstown Motors bought an ex-General Motors plant in its namesake Ohio city in 2020 and plans to join Rivian in the market for electric pickup trucks. Lion Electric, a Canadian company that makes electric school buses and medium- to heavy-duty trucks, announced in early May that it plans to build its U.S. factory in Joliet, Ill.

Additionally, GM plans to offer only EVs by 2035, and Ford said that it will invest \$29 billion in building EVs (including taking a \$500 million stake in Rivian).

INDIANA: LAW FOCUSES ON MAKING PLANS FOR FUTURE OF AUTO MANUFACTURING

While auto plants can be retooled to build EVs, those cars use fewer parts — they don't need transmissions or piston engines, for example — which means ancillary factories must find a way to adapt or die.

That's why Indiana Rep. Michael Karickhoff says he filed HB 1168, creating the Indiana Electric Vehicle Product Commission. The goal of this measure, signed into law in April, is to preserve as much of Indiana's automotive manufacturing sector as possible by determining how and what it needs to transition from internal combustion to electric. The 10-member panel has been charged with:

- evaluating the state's existing EV facilities and production capability, inventory of skilled and non-skilled EV industry workers, and opportunities and needs for training within the industry;
- identifying what traditional auto manufacturing does well and determining how that can be leveraged to increase EV production, research and development;
- studying past successes of retooling and transforming manufacturing facilities; and
- determining whether to create training centers that promote careers in the EV industry or to transform extant centers for the traditional automotive industry.

"People are accepting of the reality of what's coming, and manufacturing is a big deal here," Karickhoff says.

"How we deploy our resources to fit with what industry needs is what the commission will hopefully show us."

Similar legislation has been introduced in Ohio (HB 292), another Midwestern state with a rich history in the auto manufacturing sector.

MINNESOTA: TAX ELECTRICITY AS A FUEL?

All Midwestern states have annual registration fee

surcharges for EVs. These fees are designed to capture some of what a vehicle owner would pay in gas taxes with an internal combustion vehicle (see second map). Currently, those fees range between \$50 and \$200. Saskatchewan will begin charging an annual "road use" fee of \$150 (Canadian dollars) for EVs in October.

North Dakota legislators considered a bill this year (HB 1464) that would have raised the three-year-old EV "road use" fee (currently \$20 to \$120) by \$15 to \$20 and authorized a study during the legislature's 2022 interim session on the impacts of EVs on transportation funding. The bill died in the Senate.

A Minnesota bill (SF 1086) would raise the state's EV surcharge from \$75 to \$229 and create new levels for plug-in hybrids (\$114.50), electric motorcycles (\$46) and plug-in hybrid motorcycles (\$23). Future changes



Minnesota Sen. Jeff Howe

to those surcharges would be linked to, and be proportional with, changes to the gasoline excise tax.

"This is the only tool in our toolbox right now, [but] I don't think that's where we need to go," says Minnesota Sen. Jeff Howe, the bill's author, noting that the surcharge doesn't collect any revenue from non-Minnesota drivers using the state's roads.

His hope is that state policy adjusts to the new role of electricity in powering vehicles.

"I want to make it fair, and the only way to make it fair is to treat [electricity] as a fuel," he says.

Howe filed SF 1602 to tax the electricity used to charge EVs at a rate of 5.01 cents per kilowatt hour when delivered from a utility to a charging station on public or private property. Utilities would collect the tax and turn it over to the state on a monthly basis.

WHICH COMES FIRST: THE VEHICLES OR THE CHARGING STATIONS?

For widespread adoption of EVs, there also must be widespread installation of recharging stations.

In the Midwest, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers' proposed 2021-23 biennial budget sets aside \$10.7 million from the state's share of the Volkswagen settlement to both reinstate an EV charging station grant program and replace aging state-owned vehicles with electric ones. It also authorizes \$5 million in bonding authority to develop an EV charging infrastructure. Legislators began going over his budget in April.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced in late April that he will amend the state's plan for its share of the settlement to direct the remaining \$88.9 million toward EVs (school and transit buses) and light-duty charging infrastructure instead of buying newer diesel vehicles.

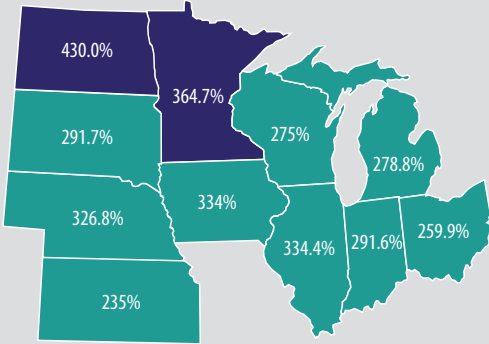
This year, the Illinois General Assembly is considering HB 3125, which would require utilities with 500,000 or more customers to file a "beneficial electrification plan" with the Illinois Commerce Commission by May 31, 2022, detailing how they would develop and implement "time-of-use" rates for EV charging.

It also would revive language from a 2020 bill (HB 4284) to require that a percentage of parking spaces in new or renovated residential and commercial buildings be designated, and ready, for EVs. Finally, HB 3125 would create rebates to help low-income residents buy electric vehicles.

Among other bills in the Midwest this year calling for financial incentives for charging-station installations:

- LB 346 in Nebraska would create a tax credit for people and qualified businesses that install new, metered-for-fee public access EV charging stations in 2021 and 2022; and
- HB 2145 in Kansas, which became law, exempts electricity used to charge EVs from the state's definition of a "public utility" for regulatory purposes. (Kansas also exempts compressed natural gas from the public utility designation.)

% INCREASE IN MONTHLY SALES OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN MIDWESTERN STATES: JANUARY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2020*

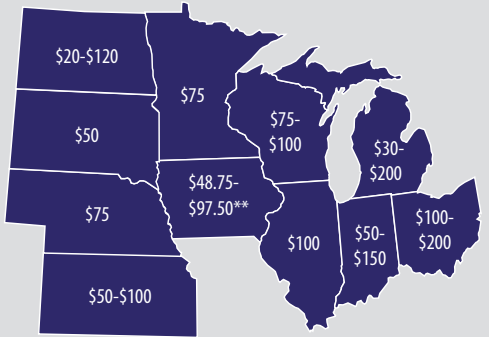


* Includes hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and battery- and hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles

- Higher than national increase of 364%
- Lower than national increase of 364%

Source: Alliance for Automotive Innovation

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES*



* Fees for electric vehicles are assessed in addition to standard vehicle registration fees; they may vary depending on type (electric or plug-in hybrid) and/or weight.

** Iowa's fee range will rise next year to \$65-\$130.

Source: Alternative Fuels Data Center, U.S. Department of Energy

STATE-LEVEL INCENTIVES RELATED TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Incentive	Examples of states with incentive in place
Exempt EVs from emissions testing	Illinois, Michigan and Ohio
Provide credit on tolls	Minnesota (pilot program)
Provide grants to reduce diesel emissions; may include funds for retrofitting and/or electrifying school buses, transit buses and/or other fleets, as well as grants to purchase EVs	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio and South Dakota
Provide grants for vehicle research and development	Indiana
Fund installation of fast-charging EV stations	Michigan
Provide property tax exemption for qualified industrial applicants	Michigan
Offer low-interest loans to install alternative-vehicle infrastructure or purchase alternative vehicles	Nebraska
Provide grants to replace public transit buses built between 1992 and 2009	Wisconsin

Source: Alternative Fuels Data Center, U.S. Department of Energy

DROP IN A STATE’S NUMBER OF CHILDREN SETS UP LABOR-FORCE CHALLENGES IN FUTURE

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Minnesota already has had a hard time with labor-force growth.”

She adds that these population trends, namely what’s happening in younger cohorts, is a particular challenge for Midwest and Northeastern states.

“In and of itself, I don’t think having slow growth is a problem,” she says.

“But the way that our economies are set up, and even our public budgets, we assume there is growth in the future — ever-expanding markets, ever-expanding numbers of producers. We fund our government through consumption and production. That’s a foundation we don’t think of very often, but it’s a reality.

“So when we know there are demographic factors coming that make it hard or impossible to grow your way out of [economic or budgeting issues], that becomes a challenge.”

POLICY OPTIONS FOR STATES

Can this loss of population, either in the nation, an entire state or parts of a state, be stemmed? Frey believes that will be difficult to achieve without a rise in immigration from other countries.

“It’s going to be the lifeblood of our growth, and really the only way to keep the growth rate from going more on that downward track,” he says.

Frey also has written about the policy implications of the “child deficit.” Between 2010 and 2019, the number of children living in most Midwestern states declined (see map).

“The way that our economies are set up, and even our public budgets, we assume there is growth in the future.”

Susan Brower, Minnesota state demographer

“In the 1960s, kids were all over the place; they were a huge part of the population,” Frey says. “That’s not going to be the case anymore.”

For states, that means making the most of every child you have — closing achievement gaps and ensuring all young people are prepared to be part of the labor force and to contribute to local economies. There also will be an even greater premium on retaining and drawing in individuals in their 20s and early 30s.

“Those are the ages you want to attract people, because that’s when a permanent decision on where to live, where to raise a family, is going to be made,” Frey says.

Above all else, he adds, these individuals must see a chance for economic opportunity and jobs.

According to Brower, population declines have been most severe in Minnesota counties that lack a diverse mix of employment options.

“They don’t have a metropolitan area or some kind of economic engine, other than agriculture, or farming really,” she says.

In the past, Johnson says, the first question businesses would ask when considering where to locate was, “How are the weight limits on the bridges?”

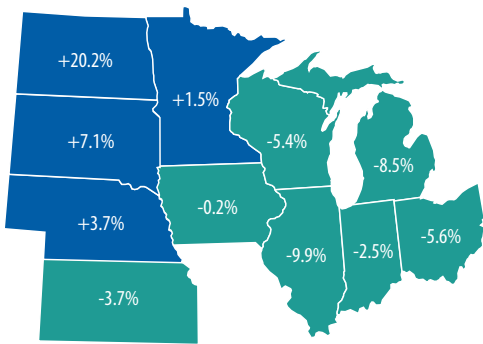
“Now the first question is about internet service,” he adds. “Companies don’t even want to think about places that don’t have high-quality services.”

State investments in infrastructure — broadband, transportation, and water — are one critical way to position local communities to attract businesses and people alike, Johnson says.

Likewise, factors such as increased internet connectivity, the rise of stay-at-home work and new remote learning opportunities in K-12 education could help.

“For states that have had problems finding workers, and for rural areas that have had a hard time holding on to residents, this potentially could be a game changer — if you can get the broadband in place,” Brower says.

CHILD POPULATION GROWTH: 2010-2019



Source: William Frey, Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program

U.S. POPULATION GROWTH, BY AGE GROUP AND DECADE*

	Under age 18	Age 18 to 64	65 and older
1990-2000	+13.1%	+14.5%	+12.6%
2000-2010	+2.6%	+11.6%	+15.1%
2010-2020	-0.3%	+4.3%	+39.2%
2020-2030	+2.3%	+1.8%	+30.5%

Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau estimates and projections by William Frey, Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program

“It sets up a dynamic where workers don’t have to be as tied to the geography of their workplace.”

THE MIDWEST IS AGAIN LOSING U.S. HOUSE SEATS AND ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES, BUT MINNESOTA HELD ITS SHARE — BARELY

In the years leading up to the 2020 census, Minnesota’s political and community leaders knew it would be close: Could the state hang on to all of eight of its existing U.S. House seats and all 10 of its Electoral College votes?

Some population estimates and trends showed the state losing in reapportionment, others showed the state could hold on to what it had. The final results turned out to be incredibly close, with Minnesota barely hanging on, and the state of New York losing a seat as result. According to Minnesota Public Radio: “If Minnesota had counted 26 fewer people — or New York just 89 more — the seat would have switched states.”

As Minnesota state demographer Susan Brower notes, had her state lost that seat, each of the remaining seven districts would have had to grow by 102,000 people, “setting off a complex realignment or redistricting of the state’s political map.”

“The impact in Greater Minnesota [the state’s areas outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area] where the districts are already very large would have been especially difficult.”

Minnesota’s state and local governments and its various community groups weren’t simply observers, watching to see what would happen with the 2020 census count. They planned for and executed an aggressive outreach campaign to ensure that high rates of Minnesotans would return their census forms.

Brower and others at the State Demographic Center helped lead the way, thanks to a budget appropriation of \$1.6 million to promote the census. (That figure is much higher than what the center has received in past decades for promotion and awareness.)

“Our office almost 100 percent shifted over the last couple of years to census engagement,” Brower says. “It was brand-new to me. It’s not something they do or you learn in a demography school. But it was fun. We had people inside and outside of government who worked really hard on it.

“It was two years of promotion all the time.”

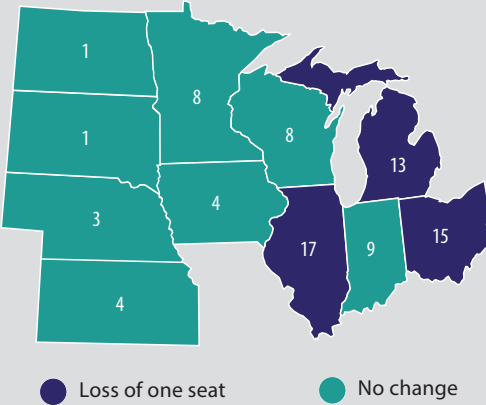
People with experience in political campaigns were hired to help with promotion efforts, and new grants went to community groups. A texting campaign, with links to fill out the census form, reached more than one million Minnesotans. And after the pandemic hit, the center set up a phone bank for volunteers to call people from certain ZIP codes that have traditionally been slower to respond to the census.

All of these efforts paid off: The state reported a nation-leading self-response rate of 75.1 percent of households and was able to secure the 435th seat in the U.S. House by the slimmest of margins.

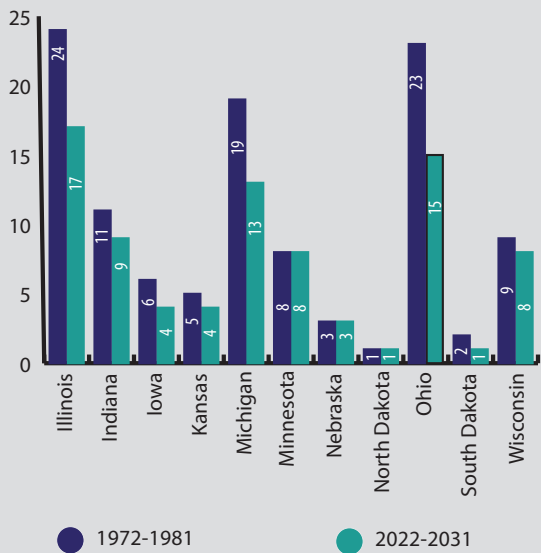
Still, the Midwest as a whole was once again a net loser on reapportionment. The region is losing three congressional seats, one each in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. This also means three fewer votes for the region in the vote for president.

In 1972, the 11-state Midwest held 133 Electoral College votes; that was 49.2 percent of the 270 needed to win the presidency. In contrast, in 2024, 105 of the Electoral College votes will come from this region, 38.9 percent of the total needed to win. According to Bill Frey, demographer at the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program, the Midwest’s share of the U.S. population (Missouri included) has been falling since at least 1920 — from 32 percent that year to 21 percent in 2020.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT IN MIDWEST OVER NEXT DECADE: # OF U.S. HOUSE SEATS AND CHANGES AS RESULT OF 2020 CENSUS



CHANGE IN MIDWEST’S # OF U.S. HOUSE SEATS*



* Over this time period, the 11-state Midwest lost a total of 28 U.S. House seats.



PROFILE: ILLINOIS SENATE DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER LAURA MURPHY

Lifelong resident talks about how service in local government shapes her work as a legislator, and why higher education is the key to a bright future for her state

by Mitch Arvidson (marvidson@csg.org)

Very early in her career of public service, as an alderwoman, Illinois Sen. Laura Murphy learned not only how much government matters to people, but how much they paid attention.

“You could not go to the local grocery store without someone stopping you about a particular issue that they might have,” she recalls of her time on the City Council. “It really makes you realize the importance you play in people’s lives.”

She is quite a bit farther away from those constituents now when conducting legislative business: Illinois’ capital of Springfield is about 200 miles away from her hometown of Des Plaines, a northern suburb of Chicago.

But those constituents are still at the top of her mind.

“How would I be approached at the grocery store if I made this or that decision?” she asks herself when choosing what legislative policies to pursue and how to vote on various measures.

After eight years on the Des Plaines City Council, Murphy was appointed to the Senate in 2015, won a close race one year later, and then ran unopposed in 2020 — a year in which she also ascended into leadership for the Senate Democratic Caucus.

She recently talked to CSG Midwest about her views on effective leadership, lessons from local government that she carried to Springfield, and why she focuses much of her legislative work on higher education. Here are excerpts.

Q How has that experience in local government, eight years as an alderwoman, contributed to or influenced your work as a state legislator?

A So many of the policy decisions that we have to make impact local government. ... That is a helpful perspective to take up to the next level, when you are a little bit more removed from everyday constituents; people do not necessarily pay as close attention to state government as they do to their local government. It just reminds you all the time, from a local perspective: How would this be handled? How would people react?

Q How do you think the job of a state legislator, or the role of state government more generally, has changed in the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic?



BIO-SKETCH: ILLINOIS SENATOR LAURA MURPHY

- ✓ selected as Illinois Senate deputy majority leader in 2020; member of the Senate since 2015
- ✓ served for eight years as alderwoman in the northern Chicago suburb of Des Plaines
- ✓ professional background includes two decades of experience in health care and social services management
- ✓ once served as a member of Illinois Liquor Control Commission, where she worked to educate youth on alcohol and tobacco prevention
- ✓ lives in Des Plaines with her husband and son

“We need to focus on having a structure that keeps our young people learning in Illinois, staying in Illinois and earning in Illinois.”

A People do not anticipate that life as we know it will come to a screeching halt. For us in Illinois, it was March 16, and boom, everything was shut down. For those that were impacted by job loss, it highlighted the government services that need to be provided to help productive citizens remain productive citizens. Never was there a greater time to experience, to understand, and to see how government roles and services fulfill a significant need in people’s lives.

Q In 2020, you entered legislative leadership, as Senate deputy majority leader. What does this entail, and how do you approach your leadership role?

A We serve at the pleasure of the Senate president [Don Harmon], and we take on responsibilities to not only provide leadership to our constituents, but also to our members. The way the Senate president structures it, we are assigned certain tasks that help facilitate his performance in accomplishing [the caucus] agenda throughout the General Assembly.

I tend to be an inclusive leader; I like to solicit people’s opinions. When you do that, people feel a part of the decision-making process and are more willing to enact the final decision. I like to check in on members, create a dialogue and conversation, and help them.

Q You entered leadership in 2020, a challenging period because of the pandemic and

because you have so many new members of the Senate — 29 of the 59 came to the chamber in 2018, 2019 or 2020. What has been the impact?

A Without the normalcy of in-person session last year, everybody has needed some guidance. ... How do I get this bill passed? How do I get people to support and agree with my philosophy and policy? How can I steer constituents to information to make an educated decision? All those factors go into what we as leaders try to work with our members on and to give them those skills. After we lost a year of that in the pandemic, it’s even more important now to reinforce those practices.

Q The General Assembly has had some significant leadership turnover as well, including changes in the Senate president and House speaker over the past two years. How does this impact other members?

A Every person has his or her own leadership style. There is a responsibility of every member to learn the new leadership style, to learn how to build that relationship with the new Senate president and with the new speaker of the House.

Because at the end of the day, we want to deliver for our constituents. That’s what we are here for. All of that is about relationships. You have to re-establish relationships; you have to build trust; you have to learn their style.

Also, sometimes, given our structure as elected officials, there are other people who have been around longer, like lobbyists or staff members. You have to make sure it’s the elected official making decisions and not these other influencers.

Q Looking forward, what are your legislative priorities for the rest of 2021 and beyond?

A Illinois has had some struggles and its challenges, but I know and believe in the greatness of the state. Going forward, I hope we take this pandemic as an opportunity to make the changes we need to get our fiscal house in order.

To get there, we need to encourage people to remain in the state. ... I serve on the Higher Education Committee, and I believe that higher education truly is the key to the stability of a state. I want to focus on ensuring that our state universities are the flagship universities of the Midwest. We need to have a structure that keeps our young people learning in Illinois, staying in Illinois and earning in Illinois.

That is how I see us turning Illinois around — through our young people through our higher-education system. Of course, in order for the higher-education system to be successful, K-12 has to deliver what it needs to. I think we are becoming one of the better states in our early-education system. If we can do well from early ed to higher ed, we’re going to build a really wonderful, well-rounded individual that contributes back to the community.

FIRST PERSON: LEGISLATORS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THEIR HOME DISTRICTS

Making new laws is only one of many ways senator views his role in economic recovery



by Illinois Sen. Dale Fowler

Like many state legislators from the Midwest, my roots run deep in the region that I have the privilege of serving. It's a place that I've called home my entire life.

The 59th Senate District encompasses all or parts of 13 counties in southern Illinois, runs along our state's border with Kentucky and Missouri, and includes parts of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

I was first elected to serve this region in 2016.

Ever since then, my work as a legislator has been driven by these questions: How can I help my home district grow and develop economically? How can I help enhance opportunities for our residents and businesses?

I've discovered that the answer is about much more than making new laws. We as legislators are uniquely positioned to be advocates of the communities and people that we know so well and that have special places in our hearts.

Here is the story of my home district and how I try to help it as a state legislator.

A WIN-WIN: TAPPING INTO THE POWER OF TOURISM

I fear that when people think of Illinois, they overlook and undervalue the strengths of our southern region.

What many people forget, for example, is that southern Illinois is an amazing tourist destination, with visitors coming from all over the country to enjoy a national forest, a multitude of state parks, shopping destinations, historic attractions and outdoor recreational spots. From Shawnee National Forest to Rend Lake to Dixon Springs State Park, the region has boundless attractions that

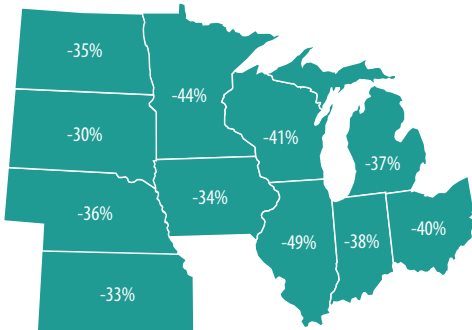
should continue to drive our tourism economy.

According to the U.S. Travel Association, for every \$1 million spent in Illinois by domestic and international travelers, 7.5 jobs are created. It estimates that in 2019, travel spending in Illinois generated a total of \$7.8 billion in tax receipts.

Tourism is an economic winner for any region, and throughout my tenure as senator, one of my major goals has been to promote Southern Illinois' diverse and stunning attractions.

My "Southern Illinois Treasures" series is a self-narrated, ongoing collection of videos (available on Facebook and other platforms) that take viewers to different parts of the region and highlight unique places to visit. With Illinois' leisure and hospitality sectors having taken a major hit over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, driving tourists and visitors to these treasures is more important than ever in helping our state recover.

% DECLINE IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM SPENDING IN STATE BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020



Source: U.S. Travel Association

MEET THE MOMENT: HELPING BUSINESSES THROUGH COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic took a major toll on our local economy: skyrocketing unemployment rates, business closures, and the devastation wreaked on our vital hospitality industry.

This makes the goal of promoting and supporting economic development all the more critical.

After all, as an elected official, it is my responsibility to help the people of my district. And if people don't have jobs, if businesses don't have the support of their state government, or if entire industries never recover from this pandemic, our communities will suffer.

I refuse to let that be the story for Southern Illinois.

Now that we are beginning to move toward a full reopening of the economy, my responsibility as a lawmaker is to do my part to help create an environment that encourages job creators to rebuild.

For me, this includes sponsoring business-friendly legislation, such as my pending proposal to allocate a percentage of future federal COVID-19 relief funds to our state's Business Interruption Grants, or BIG, Program.

BIG leverages federal funding to help small businesses, particularly those in industries hit hardest by the pandemic and in some of Illinois' economically disadvantaged areas.

Under the proposal (SB 1615), 25 percent of COVID-19 funds would go to this program, which provides grants and loan-forgiveness assistance to businesses.

Beyond legislative proposals like these, I also believe that my office should serve as a resource for businesses and local communities as they navigate the post-pandemic landscape. I have a responsibility to promote, encourage and support our local enterprises, especially the small businesses that make up the backbone of our economy.

SUPPORT AND PROMOTE: LEADING ON 'BUY LOCAL'

For the past several years, I have put together an exposition for local vendors. At this event, they are able to promote their businesses, sell their goods and gain greater exposure. The Southern Illinois Made Expo attracts thousands of visitors, all in the spirit of shopping local. (Visit SImade.org to learn more.)

Whether it's touring a business, hosting an expo or shining a spotlight on job creators, we as elected officials have a unique platform to support our employers and employees.

We also can work to change the perception of our home region. That has been one of my goals for Southern Illinois, a region that is too often underestimated but that plays a vital role in the success and future of our entire state.

ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN MIDWEST'S ECONOMY		
State	# of jobs from small businesses	% of total jobs in private workforce from small businesses
Illinois	2.5 million	45.1%
Indiana	1.2 million	44.4%
Iowa	649,796	48.0%
Kansas	605,147	50.5%
Michigan	1.9 million	49.0%
Minnesota	1.3 million	46.9%
Nebraska	412,587	49.5%
North Dakota	195,312	57.4%
Ohio	2.2 million	45.3%
South Dakota	209,403	58.2%
Wisconsin	1.3 million	49.5%

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, "2020 Small Business Profile" (data from 2017)



Illinois Sen. Dale Fowler (left) and Gov. J.B. Pritzker (right) announce a major new initiative to invest in the Alexander Cairo Port, which is located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

We have tremendous potential for growth and development. Currently we are in the process of building a casino/resort, and have numerous businesses that are being repurposed, revitalized and expanded. We've also made historic levels of investment in infrastructure, and a state-of-the-art inland port at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers is now under development.

We have the people, resources, ideas and tenacity to succeed and grow. It won't be easy, but we will find a way. Southern Illinois has a bright future, and as an elected official, I'm honored to be a part of making it happen.

Illinois Sen. Dale Fowler was first elected to the state Senate in 2016. He is a 2018 graduate of CSG Midwest's Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD).

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

This page is designed to be a forum for legislators and constitutional officers. The opinions expressed on this page do not reflect those of The Council of State Governments or the Midwestern Legislative Conference. Responses to any FirstPerson article are welcome, as are pieces written on other topics. For more information, contact Tim Anderson at 630.925.1922 or tanderson@csg.org.

CSG IS OFFERING DETAILED, UP-TO-DATE ANALYSES OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AND ITS IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENTS

To help legislators and other state leaders understand and make the most of new opportunities under the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, The Council of State Governments has conducted a series of detailed studies on the federal law.

That work can be found via the online CSG resource “COVID-19 Resources for State Leaders” (visit [csg.org](https://www.csg.org).)

CSG’s various analysis sheets examine the Rescue Plan’s spending on specific industry sectors, workers, employers, housing, infrastructure, state vaccination plans and K-12 education, as well as the direct relief going to state governments through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. CSG also looks at how and why 21 state attorneys general (including those in Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota) are seeking clarification about language in the law that bars the use of Recovery Fund dollars to offset tax cuts.

Other recent CSG studies have looked at the Biden administration’s proposed \$2.7 trillion American Jobs Plan infrastructure bill and Made in America Tax Plan.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT: ESTIMATES OF ALLOCATIONS TO MIDWESTERN STATES			
State	State fiscal relief fund	Capital projects	Total (including aid to cities, counties)
Illinois	\$7.5 billion	\$254 million	\$13.7 billion
Indiana	\$3.1 billion	\$202 million	\$5.9 billion
Iowa	\$1.4 billion	\$153 million	\$2.7 billion
Kansas	\$1.6 billion	\$143 million	\$2.7 billion
Michigan	\$5.7 billion	\$250 million	\$10.3 billion
Minnesota	\$2.6 billion	\$179 million	\$4.9 billion
Nebraska	\$976 million	\$128 million	\$1.8 billion
North Dakota	\$1.0 billion	\$112 million	\$1.4 billion
Ohio	\$5.6 billion	\$274 million	\$11.2 billion
South Dakota	\$978 million	\$116 million	\$1.4 billion
Wisconsin	\$3.2 billion	\$189 million	\$5.7 billion
Source: Federal Funds Information for States			

NOMINATE AN UP-AND-COMING LEADER FOR CSG’S ‘20 UNDER 40’ AWARD PROGRAM

Nominations for The Council of State Governments’ “20 Under 40” awards program, which provides special recognition for “up and coming” state officials under 40 years of age, are open through July 9. Nominees must be elected or appointed officials from a U.S. state or territory who are providing exceptional engagement and leadership.

The “20 Under 40” Awards program began in 2020. Midwest officials in the inaugural group of winners included Illinois Rep. Sonya Harper, Nebraska Sens. Sara Howard (who termed out in 2020) and Tony Vargas, and Minnesota Senate President Jeremy Miller. Nomination and application forms are available at web.csg.org/20-40/.



REGION’S LAWMAKERS TO EXPLORE MIDWEST’S POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE AT MLC ANNUAL MEETING

Nonpartisan event being held in South Dakota; registration deadline is June 4

The only event designed by and for the region’s state and provincial legislators will include a focus on the Midwest’s post-pandemic future, and some of the critical policy challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference will be held July 11-14 in Rapid City, S.D. June 4 is the deadline to register and book reservations at one of the meeting’s host hotels.



Ben Hammersley

This year’s event will cover a wide range of topics, including sessions led by the MLC’s interstate, binational committees on agriculture, criminal justice, economic development, education, fiscal affairs, health and Midwest-Canada relations.

The meeting’s keynote speaker is acclaimed futurist, journalist and technologist Ben Hammersley, whose address will help lawmakers prepare for the policy implications of coming changes in the economy, jobs, student learning, health delivery and more.

Please note: The Midwestern Legislative Conference encourages all attendees at the MLC’s 75th Annual Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, to familiarize themselves with all COVID-19-related guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by the appropriate state, provincial and local public health authorities in the areas to and from which they will be traveling in order to attend the conference. Compliance with such guidance, and with any on-site health and safety protocols recommended by the MLC to help ensure the safety of all event participants, is strongly encouraged by the MLC but will ultimately remain the responsibility of individual attendees.



Other program highlights include:

- a featured presentation by Tatewin Means, executive director of the Thunder Valley Community Development Corp., a human rights advocate and former attorney general for the Oglala Sioux nation.
- a plenary session on agricultural conservation, the subject of the MLC Chair’s Initiative of South Dakota Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack.

- a professional development session led by a former state legislator on tips for managing legislative stress.

The family-friendly MLC Annual Meeting also includes separate daytime programming for the adult and youth guests of attendees, along with these special evening events:

- Opening Night Reception at Reptile Gardens;
- Family Night at the Crazy Horse Memorial and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial; and
- State Dinner at The Monument (Rapid City’s civic center, site of the meeting).

Registration can be completed at csgmidwest.org.



Tatewin Means

CAUCUS SHARES IDEAS, BEST PRACTICES ON NUTRIENT RUNOFF

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus’ (GLLC) Nutrient Management Task Force remains busy in 2021, promoting the model policies it released last year.

The caucus hosted a two-part web meeting on April 23 and May 7, examining nutrient-management policies in the Great Lakes

jurisdictions of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Wisconsin. A related webinar on May 21, hosted by the Great Lakes Commission, focused on quantifying the impacts of such programs. These web meetings can be viewed via the GLLC’s website: greatlakeslegislators.org.

The work of the Nutrient Management Task Force began in 2019. That year, nutrient pollution was the focus of the Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy.

Then, led by Wisconsin Sen. Andre Jacque, the task force released a list of model policies in September 2020.



Wisconsin Sen. Andre Jacque



ABOUT THE CAUCUS

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus is a binational, nonpartisan organization of state and provincial legislators. Membership is free and open to legislators in the eight states or two provinces bordering the Great Lakes or St. Lawrence River. Led by an Executive Committee of legislators from across the basin, the GLLC has two officers: Illinois Rep. Robyn Gabel, chair; and Minnesota Rep. Jennifer Schultz, vice chair.

The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments provides staff support to the caucus. Among the GLLC activities: an annual meeting; regularly held, policy-focused web meetings; legislative trackers on water quality; federal Great Lakes advocacy; and the Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy.

This institute brings together a select group of GLLC members to examine a single issue and create a plan for regionwide action. The 2021 Institute will focus on climate resiliency in coastal communities.

BILLD ALUMNI NOTES: GRADUATES SERVING AS POLICY LEADERS ON TRANSPORTATION

This session, **Ohio Rep. Riordan McClain** (BILLD class of 2019) was re-appointed vice chair of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, a position he also held during the last biennium. In addition, McClain is a member of the Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.



“Rural Ohio has been negatively impacted by the devastation of this past year, and good policy decisions will be vital to our full recovery,” McClain said of his committee assignments and legislative focus this session.

He has sponsored a bill that would create a tax credit of 5 cents per gallon on the sale of E15 and higher-blended biofuel.

“Ohio is the eighth-highest corn-producing state and home to seven ethanol refineries that purchase much of our local corn yield for use in ethanol production,” McClain said about his sponsorship of HB 165. However, if you try to purchase high-blend biofuel at the pump, Ohio ranks much lower in consumer availability due to the control of the marketplace.”

He says higher-blended biofuel provides many advantages for Ohio — “cheaper, cleaner, renewable, and importantly for us, locally grown and produced.”

“We can help level the playing field for our local Ohio growers and refiners with this legislation,” McClain adds.

Several other BILLD alumni are serving as leaders of transportation-related policy and appropriations committees in their legislatures.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Indiana **Sen. Michael Crider**, class of 2015
- Iowa **Sen. Waylon Brown**, class of 2018
- Kansas **Sen. Mike Petersen**, class of 2007
- Michigan **Sen. Wayne Schmidt**, class of 2009
- North Dakota **Rep. Dan Ruby**, class of 2003

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS

- Indiana **Rep. Shane Lindauer**, class of 2019
- Minnesota **Sen. John Jasinski**, class of 2019
- Ohio **Sen. Bill Reineke**, class of 2016

COMMITTEE RANKING MEMBERS

- Illinois **Rep. Tim Butler**, class of 2016
- Iowa **Sen. Janet Petersen**, class of 2002
- Michigan **Sen. Erika Geiss**, class of 2015
- Minnesota **Sen. D. Scott Dibble**, class of 2003

Please submit Alumni News to Laura Tomaka, CSG Midwest program manager for BILLD. She can be reached at ltomaka@csg.org.

IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING LEGISLATIVE STRESS: SCIENCE-BASED TIPS FROM A FORMER LAWMAKER

I vividly remember the legislative session cycle as starting with high energy and focus. The demands of balancing family, work and public service brought a full complement of stress — and yet, it seemed manageable.

By the end of the session, I was tired and weary, and the motivating factors of good stress moved past a tipping point and took me to distress. I was not at my best. My energy tank was empty.

In the legislature, I saw evidence of the destructive force of distress, which erodes energy and enthusiasm, saps patience and civility, and undermines optimal performance.

I wish I would have known then what I know now about the new science of stress.

Stress is real. And the research around stress indicates that “good stress” can improve focus, motivation and endurance, creating optimal performance. Distress, though, leads to mental, physical and emotional lapses that negatively impact performance.

How you think about stress (your mindset) and how you respond to stress (your actions) make a difference. In her research, Stanford University’s Dr. Kelly McGonigal asserts that how you understand stress makes all the difference in how you respond to it. And when you change your mind about stress, you change your body’s response.

My colleague Dr. Matt Davidson, president of the Excellence with Integrity Institute, has spent 25 years developing research-based strategies for individual and organizational success, including in-depth work around stress management.

The following are some essential strategies drawn from our applied work together.

1 BE AWARE, THEN SHARE WITH A PERSON OF TRUST

Look for patterns that indicate signs of high stress, including irritability, headaches, low energy, misuse of food and alcohol, and an overall sense of dragging yourself through the day. It’s easier to monitor yourself when the topic is open for discussion amongst your colleagues. So, break the silence and share what you are going through with a person of trust.

2 PREPARE FOR HANDLING HIGH-STRESS MOMENTS

Responses are the actions you take, both proactive and reactive. Proactive responses are done in preparation of high-stress moments: adequate sleep, hydration, nutrition, exercise

Guest Author: J. Scott Raecker

J. Scott Raecker is executive director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. Scott was a state representative in Iowa from 1999 to 2012 and served in various leadership positions, including as chair of the House Appropriations Committee and Ethics Committee. He is a 1999 graduate of the BILLD program, past co-chair of the BILLD Steering Committee, and a current faculty member of BILLD.



Understanding that mistakes and challenges are opportunities to learn and grow is essential to managing stress.

and down time, for example. Reactive responses take place in moments of high stress, when you need to take a moment for quick introspection on what you are going to say or do next. A quick walk outside or a moment alone to concentrate on your thoughts with intentional breathing can minimize negative responses to stress.

3 VIEW MISTAKES, CHALLENGES AS A CHANCE TO GROW

A major contributor to stress is your mindset and how you approach your public service and life. Science is also clear here: A growth mindset is beneficial in managing stress. Understanding that mistakes and challenges are opportunities to learn and grow is essential to managing stress. Learn to let go of the things that are sapping your energy and negatively impacting your optimal performance. Your stressors may not change, but how you approach them can.

As renowned psychologist Viktor Frankl once said, “When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

TRAINING SESSION ON STRESS MANAGEMENT BEING SPONSORED BY BILLD, WILL TAKE PLACE AT MLC ANNUAL MEETING IN JULY

As part of the 75th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, J. Scott Raecker will lead a training session for lawmakers on strategies to manage legislative stress. This year’s MLC Annual Meeting is being held July 11-14 in in Rapid City, S.D. It also will include other BILLD-related events, including the annual alumni reception and a business meeting of the Steering Committee. More information is available at csgmidwest.org.

Through the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, or BILLD, CSG Midwest provides annual training on leadership and professional development for newer state and provincial legislators from this region. This page provides information related to the BILLD program, leadership development and legislative leadership. CSG’s Midwestern Legislative Conference BILLD Steering Committee — a bipartisan group of state and provincial legislators from the Midwest — oversees the program, including the annual selection of BILLD Fellows.

STATELINE MIDWEST

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CSG EVENTS

CSG Midwestern Legislative Conference Virtual Events for Legislators

Visit csgmidwest.org to find dates of upcoming webinars and view recordings of past webinars on public policy, professional development and leadership training.



MLC

CSG: Virtual Sessions

Visit csg.org to find dates of upcoming sessions covering various topics on public policy and legislating.



Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting

July 11-14, 2021 | Rapid City, South Dakota

Contact: Cindy Andrews ~ candrews@csg.org
630.925.1922 | csgmidwest.org



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus Annual Meeting

September 24-25, 2021 | Québec City, QC

Contact: Mike McCabe ~ mmccabe@csg.org
630.925.1922 | greatlakeslegislators.org



GREAT LAKES
GLLC
ST. LAWRENCE
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development

October 1-5, 2021 | Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact: Laura Tomaka ~ ltomaka@csg.org
630.925.1922 | csgmidwest.org



BILLD

September 24-25, 2021 | Québec City, QC

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