



MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
★ 80TH ANNUAL MLC MEETING ★
AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



CSGMIDWEST.ORG/MLC26

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SAL KHAN

One of the world's leading voices on education and the promise of technology will share his insights on the future of learning and literacy.

Sal Khan became known worldwide as the founder and CEO of the nonprofit Khan Academy. Available to anyone, anywhere, the academy's free curriculum has made a massive impact, with its videos reaching more than a billion views. His goal: Help remove barriers to education that have left millions of children lacking basic math and reading skills.

Now, Khan sees potential in the use of AI to make education more accessible, interactive, personalized and effective.

Meeting attendees will learn how and why, and the role of state policy, in his keynote address.

"AI won't destroy education, it'll save it." - Sal Khan



LUNCHEON SPEAKER
ANNA PALMER

Widely respected for her unparalleled insights and analysis from the forefront of American politics, **Anna Palmer** is a trusted voice on the latest — and most accurate — news on the U.S. Congress, presidential campaigns, and the politics of governing. The co-founder and CEO of Punchbowl News grew up in North Dakota and was born in and went to college in Minnesota.

Palmer will share an up-to-the-minute breakdown of what's happening on Capitol Hill and what's on the horizon for Congress, the White House and state legislatures ahead of the upcoming 2026 midterm elections.



PLENARY SPEAKER
ROBERT WACHTER

A physician and best-selling author, **Dr. Robert Wachter** will share breakthrough findings and key takeaways for policy leaders from his new book, "A Giant Leap: How AI Is Transforming Healthcare and What That Means for Our Future."

Dr. Wachter is an elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine and a widely respected futurist and thought leader.

His new book draws on original research and candid conversations with more than 100 experts to explore what it means for patients and clinicians in this age of astonishing technology change.



LUNCHEON SPEAKER
MICHAEL HATTEM

Americans have developed a deep emotional connection to the country's founding and to its founders. As a result, the American Revolution continues to have a prominent place in U.S. politics and culture.

Dr. Michael Hattem, a leading historian on the era, will discuss how and why Americans have such a unique attachment to their Revolution and its importance in American history.



REASONS TO ATTEND THE MLC ANNUAL MEETING



Connect with Midwest leaders and colleagues



Gain insights from top speakers and policy experts



Bring your family and enjoy events for all ages



Experience an exceptional city of the Midwest

THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS

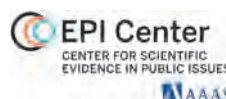
DIAMOND



EMERALD



PLATINUM



GOLD

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Altria
Copic

BRONZE

Batteries Plus
Wells Fargo

Corteva Agriscience
Missouri River Energy Services

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE Contact Katie Kelly at kkelly@csg.org to learn how your company or organization can help support the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

The MLC Chair's Invitation



In Minnesota, we like to say there is nothing that brings us together quite like our State Fair, the largest in the nation.

For the region's state and provincial legislators, the same can be said about The Council of State Governments' binational, bipartisan Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

You have the chance to experience both in Saint Paul.

This is a landmark year for the conference, and during your four days at the 80th Annual Meeting of the MLC, you will have the chance to hear from engaging speakers like education pioneer Sal Kahn, take part in a wide range of policy sessions, and explore our vibrant capital city through learning site tours and special evening events.

One of those events will be a night to remember at the State Fair — known as "The Great Minnesota Get-Together."

On behalf of the entire Minnesota Legislature, I'm honored to invite you to Saint Paul this summer for the MLC Annual Meeting: Aug 30 to Sep 2.



We look forward to serving as hosts for a great Midwestern get-together.



MLC Chair's Initiative - Literacy in Action

Literacy is the building block for students to succeed academically, as well as for people of all ages to prosper in their economic and civic lives. States help build this foundation — through the investments they make, the standards they set, and the laws they enact. Literacy policy will be explored at this year's MLC Annual Meeting, with a focus on the future of learning amid an everchanging technological landscape that is bringing new challenges and opportunities, inside and outside the classroom.

The Council of State Governments is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association charged with promoting excellence in state government. As the only association representing all three branches of government, CSG has been committed to putting the best ideas and solutions into practice since 1933.

CSG Midwest focuses on meeting the needs of state policymakers and leaders in the nation's heartland representing 11 Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. In addition, four Canadian provinces — Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan — are members or affiliate members of CSG Midwest's Midwestern Legislative Conference.

REGISTER TODAY at csgmidwest.org/mlc26

REGISTRATION FEES

Government	\$475
Government First-Time Attendee	\$425
Nonprofit Organization	\$625
Private Sector	\$1,050
Contributor (\$3,500 or more)	\$0
CSG Associate, Premier Associate and Leadership Circle	\$1,050*
Spouse/Guest	\$225
Youth	\$0

* CSG Associate, Premier Associate and Leadership Circle members can call 859.244.8117 or email Matthew Terry or Katie Boggs at associates@csg.org to receive their discount code.

- ◆ Register by **June 30** to receive an early-bird discount.
- ◆ Registration deadline is **July 24**.
- ◆ Late fees will apply to registrations received after the deadline.
- ◆ The cost of registration covers all meals and admittance to meeting-related events.
- ◆ Separate registration is required for the spouses, adult guests, and children of attendees.
- ◆ Hotel reservations must be made separately.

Preliminary Conference Schedule

SUN | AUG 30

8:30am to 5pm

Registration and Information Desk

9:30 to 11am

MLC Policy Committee Sessions

(open to all attendees)

Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee

Health & Human Services Committee

Midwest-Canada Relations Committee

11:15am to 2:30pm

MLC Executive Committee Meeting

(lunch will be provided)

Noon to 1:30pm

MLC Policy Committees' Lunch

2:30 to 4:00pm

MLC Policy Committee Sessions

(open to all attendees)

Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

Education & Workforce Committee

Energy & Environment Committee

MON | AUG 31

7:15am to 5pm

Registration and Information Desk

7:30 to 8:45am

Breakfast

BILLD Steering Committee Business Session and Breakfast *(invitation only)*

Table Topic Breakfast Discussions

Learning Labs

9 to 9:30am

Opening Ceremony

9:30 to 10:30am

Keynote Session on Education & AI

Sal Khan

10:45 to 11:45am

Chair's Initiative Plenary Session:

Literacy in Action

11:45am to 1:45pm

Luncheon and Featured Presentation

Anna Palmer

2 to 3pm

Policy Sessions

Learning Labs

3:15 to 4:45pm

Professional Development Session

(open to all attendees)

Professional Development Session

(legislative staff only)

3:15 to 4:15pm

Learning Lab

TUES | SEP 1

7:30am to 5:00pm

Registration and Information Desk

7:30 to 8:45am

Breakfast

BILLD Breakfast *(invitation only)*

MLC Resolutions Committee Meeting

Table Topic Breakfast Discussions

Learning Labs

9 to 10am

Plenary Session: Healthcare & AI

Dr. Robert Wachter

10:15 to 11:30am

Breakout Sessions

11:45am to 1:45pm

Luncheon and Featured Presentation

Dr. Michael Hattem

2 to 3pm

Policy Sessions

Learning Labs

3:15 to 4:30pm

Plenary Session: Data Centers

WED | SEP 2

8:30 to 10am

Breakfast and MLC Business Session

10:15 to 11:15

Roundtable Discussion

(schedule subject to change)

LEARNING SITE TOURS

SAT | AUG 29

Afternoon Tour

WED | SEP 2

After the MLC Business Session

DETAILS TO COME! Site tour information and sign-up options will be sent to meeting registrants; pre-registration will be required and space limited.



MLC SAINT PAUL
AUG 30-SEP 2



EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS

SUN | AUG 30

Minnesota State Fair

The Minnesota State Fair—known as the “Great Minnesota Get-Together”—is an annual tradition celebrating food, fun, and local culture.

MON | AUG 31

Family Night - Minnesota History Center

The Minnesota History Center in downtown Saint Paul features interactive exhibits and archives that explore the state's history—from Indigenous roots to modern culture—making Minnesota's past engaging for all ages.

TUES | SEP 1

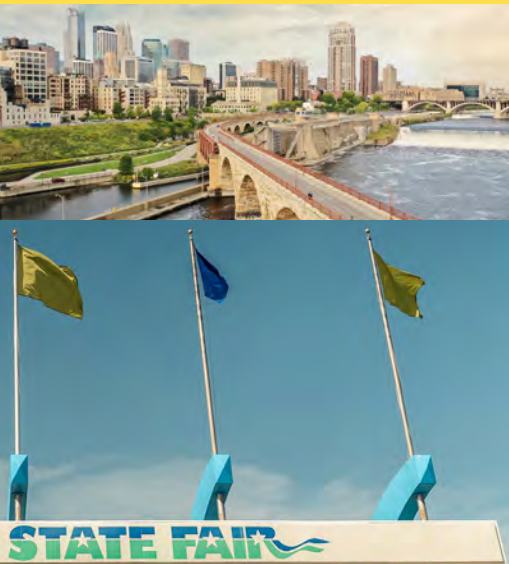
Closing/State Dinner - Nicollet Island Pavilion

Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis is a stunning historic gem right on the banks of the Mississippi River. Housed in a beautifully restored 1893 industrial building, the pavilion features soaring ceilings, exposed brick, and panoramic city views.

You must be 21 to attend events for adult attendees and guests.

WHERE TO STAY InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront

The Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting will be held at the **InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel** (11 E. Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul, Minn). The deadline to reserve a room and receive the group discount is **July 24**. Hotel reservations can be made through the link on our website: csgmidwest.org/mlc26. Use "2026 Midwestern Legislative Conference" to receive the group rate.



MLC Executive Committee and Newcomers Welcome Reception

BILLD Alumni Reception *Invitation only*

TRAVELING TO THE MEETING

The Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport serves the area and is about nine miles from the host hotel. Ride-share and taxi services are available from the airport. There is no hotel shuttle.

PARKING

The hotel offers valet parking only. Overnight rates are \$38 (plus tax) for regular-sized vehicles and \$48 (plus tax) for oversized vehicles. Off-site parking is available in the Kellogg Square Parking Ramp, located at 111 E. Kellogg Blvd.

EVENT TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All programming and event times are subject to change. Please visit the MLC meeting website at csgmidwest.org/mlc26 for the most up-to-date conference schedule.

ATTIRE

Attire for the meeting's business sessions is business casual. Attire for social events is casual unless otherwise indicated.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE MLC

Photographers will be present during the MLC Annual Meeting. Photographs may appear in CSG publications and promotional materials.



Photo courtesy of Paisley Park-NPG Records and Meet Minneapolis

SPOUSE, GUEST & YOUTH PROGRAMS

An adult must accompany children ages 5 and under at all times. Adults may only attend youth activities if they are accompanying a child and are registered as a guest.

MON | AUG 31

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Meet and Greet
Science Museum of Minnesota
Exhibits, Scavenger Hunt, Movie

SPOUSES AND ADULT GUESTS

Saint Paul Sights & Scenic River Experience
Summit Ave Tour
Monday Madness Boat Tour
James J. Hill House Tour

TUES | SEP 1

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Nickelodeon Universe & Aquarium
Rides, Attractions, SEA LIFE Aquarium
Rainforest Café

SPOUSES AND ADULT GUESTS

Paisley Park Experience
Tour, Lunch, and Entertainment

Evening

Minnesota Twins vs. Detroit Tigers MLB
Legends Landing at Target Field

Contributors Reception *Invitation only*

Nebraska 2027 Reception
Attendees, spouses and adult guests



Midwestern Legislative Conference
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tel: 630.925.1922

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COME EARLY, STAY LATE: Extend your stay in Minnesota

Minneapolis and Saint Paul come together in a dynamic mix of green space and city life — arts, dining, sports, and nature are never far apart. Nearby towns welcome visitors with locally owned shops, cozy cafés, art studios, and miles of scenic trails.

TWIN CITIES – CULTURE MEETS THE OUTDOORS

Art and culture can be found around every corner – at the State Fair, in museums, musical venues, and as public art throughout the city. Minnehaha Falls draws visitors with its striking waterfall set within an urban park, while Saint Paul's Summit Avenue features one of the nation's most impressive stretches of historic Victorian homes. Take in live music at the iconic First Avenue to create a truly memorable Minnesota experience.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

NORTHWEST – THE GREAT WIDE NORTH

Wide horizons and sparkling waters define the landscape where the Mississippi River begins its long journey south. At Itasca State Park, visitors can stand at the river's source and step from one bank to the other.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA – BLUFF COUNTRY & RIVER TOWNS

Explore scenic bluffs and sweeping Mississippi River views at Winona's Sugar Loaf Bluff, visit the historic Bloedow Bakery, discover Red Wing's unique craftsmanship heritage, and adventure along the Root River Trail and in Mystery Cave.



CENTRAL MINNESOTA – LAKES, VINEYARDS & FARMSTEAD FLAVORS

Stop by Carlos Creek Winery near Alexandria and Redhead Creamery, celebrated for its globally award-winning artisan cheeses. For those who enjoy exploring by bike or on foot, the Paul Bunyan State Trail stretches more than 100 miles through forests, lakes country, and small towns.



Register for the MLC Annual Meeting at CSGMIDWEST.ORG/MLC26