

# State Budget Suggestions

## Data Privacy Policy

Thank you for visiting the Minnesota State Senate's Budget Discussion Web site. Our purpose is to solicit your input on Minnesota's budget for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. We intend to create an online community where your ideas are provided to state senators in an interactive forum. We will not collect personal information about you when you visit this site unless you choose to provide that information.

### If You Participate in the Forum Discussion

If you choose to participate in the forum discussion, we will collect personal information through a form submitted through our Web site. The personal information collected will be your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. We need this personal information to respond to your suggestion. We do not collect personal information for any other purpose. We will treat your name, city, and any suggestions you provide as public information, and this information will be posted on the public discussion page. Your street address, ZIP code, email address, and phone number will not be publicly displayed on the Web site but will be available to Senators and Senate staff so they may respond directly to you about your suggestion. The information you provide may also be used by your senator to send you future legislative updates. The information you provide will only be shared with another government agency if your suggestion relates to that agency; it will not be given to any private organizations or private persons. The Senate will not collect or use information for commercial marketing or political purposes.

We value all ideas and suggestions to address the projected state budget deficit. We intend to post all ideas we receive and to provide them to members of the Minnesota Senate and our staff. We reserve the right to make minor editorial changes to correct grammatical or spelling errors in the suggestions we receive. We will not post suggestions that use profane, unrelated or duplicative language. We also will not post comments that include personal attacks. Where possible, we may request you to rewrite your suggestion to meet our guidelines.

### Information Collected and Stored Automatically

If you only browse through the Web site, read pages, or download information, we will gather and store certain information about your visit automatically. This information does not identify you personally. We automatically collect and store only the following information about your visit:

- 1) the Internet domain (for example, "xcompany.com") and IP address (an IP address is a number that is automatically assigned to your computer whenever you are surfing the Web) from which you accessed our Web site;
- 2) if you linked directly to our site from another Web site, the address of that Web site; and

3) the date and time you accessed our site.

We use this information to help us make our site more useful to visitors — to learn about the number of visitors to our site and the types of technology our visitors use. We do not track or record information about individuals and their visits.

### **Links to Other Sites**

Our Web site has links to the Web sites of other state agencies. Once you link to another site, you will be subject to the privacy policy of the new site.

### **Internet Security Policy**

For site security purposes and to ensure that this service remains available to all users, this government computer system employs software programs to monitor network traffic to identify unauthorized attempts to upload or change information, or otherwise cause damage.

Unauthorized attempts to upload information or change information on this service are strictly prohibited and may be punishable as computer crimes under Minnesota Statutes, sections 609.87 to 609.8913, and under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 and the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act.

Your own efforts to protect against unauthorized access play an important role in protecting the security of your personal information. You should be sure to sign off when finished using a shared computer, and always log out of any site after viewing personal information.

### **Children's Privacy**

We care about the safety and privacy of children online. We comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA). COPPA and its accompanying FTC regulation establish United States federal law that protects the privacy of children using the Internet. We do not knowingly contact or collect personal information from children under age 13. Our site is not intended to solicit information of any kind from children under age 13.

It is possible that by fraud or deception we may receive information pertaining to children under age 13. If we are notified of this, we will immediately obtain parental consent or otherwise delete the information from our servers as soon as we verify that information. If you want to notify us of our receipt of information by children under age 13, please do so by emailing us at:\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Changes to this Policy**

We will revise or update this policy if our practices change, or as we develop better ways to keep you informed about them. You should refer back to this page often for the latest information and the effective date of any changes. If we change this policy, we will post a new policy on our site and change the date at the bottom. Changes to the policy will not apply retroactively.

## **Questions or Concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: \_\_\_\_\_.