



Reshaping Minnesota's Future

“The direction we pointed Minnesota during my time as Governor was correct and overdue, and that will certainly be confirmed as the future unfolds. Government here had grown too much, too fast and far too long. We reined in government, made it more accountable for results and maintained Minnesota’s quality of life. This is an historic change for the North Star State.”

Governor Tim Pawlenty

Reducing Government Spending

The public expects, deserves and is now demanding government that lives within its means.

In the 43 years prior to Tim Pawlenty taking office, Minnesota state government general fund spending grew an average of 20.5 percent every two years. If that spending pattern had continued, general fund spending for the current biennium would be \$56 billion! That is more than \$20 billion above current levels.

Governor Pawlenty made history and changed this unsustainable pattern.

- Today general fund spending stands at \$30.7 billion, having grown an average of only 0.93 percent per year during Governor Pawlenty’s time in office.
- Minnesota’s general fund spending growth since 2003 is the seventh lowest in the country.
- Governor Pawlenty balanced the state budget four times without raising taxes, and concluded his term with a projected \$399 million balance at the end of the current two-year budget cycle.
- Minnesota has maintained the highest bond ratings - “AAA” - from Standard & Poor’s Corporation and Fitch Ratings and has one of the highest bond ratings in the country.
- Governor Pawlenty set a record for vetoes in a year.

Limiting Taxpayer Burdens

In one of the worst economic slow-downs in our nation’s history, taxpayers want fewer, not more, burdens from government. One of the best ways to improve our economy is to limit taxes. As a Minnesota governor who never proposed a tax increase, Tim Pawlenty:

- Reduced state taxes by \$782 million.
- Vetoed billions of dollars of tax increase proposals.
- Capped local property taxes for three years, saving taxpayers \$78.5 million in 2009 and \$460.5 million over the next three years.

Creating a Pro-Job Environment

Government growth will not pull us out of a recession – we need private sector job growth.

- Since the economic crash, Minnesota’s job growth rate has far exceeded the national average. In fact, in 2010, Minnesota’s job growth rate is nearly triple the national average.
- Minnesota’s unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the country.
- In 2010, average wage growth in Minnesota is double the national average.
- Workforce participation rates in Minnesota are among the highest in the nation.
- Governor Pawlenty created the Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) program to stimulate economic activity in Greater Minnesota. JOBZ has launched 327 projects in rural Minnesota, resulting in 5,238 new jobs, helping to retain 11,596 existing jobs and producing more than \$707 million in new capital investments.

Reforming Education

Today’s parents expect and Minnesota needs an education system that is more accountable, challenging to students and that rewards results. Though known nationally for its education success, Minnesota’s K-12 schools were continuing to use outdated models that failed to reflect the need for more accountability and better results. Governor Pawlenty reformed our education system by:

- Repealing the outdated, ineffective approach to teaching known as the Profile of Learning.
- Creating the Minnesota Academic Standards, which are new, more rigorous requirements.
- Overhauling the teaching profession by establishing a national model for teacher pay-for-performance, linking teacher compensation to classroom and student achievement, rather than just seniority. Today one-third of Minnesota students are now taught by Q Comp teachers.
- Supporting and growing charter schools, Minnesota now ranks first in the nation for laws that support the development and operation of charter schools, with charter schools increasing 125 percent since 2002 and students increasing 200 percent.
- The National Alliance for Public Charter Public Schools ranks Minnesota as the number one state for laws supporting the growth of high-quality charter schools. The Alliance indicates that Minnesota achieved number one status because of law changes supported and signed by Governor Pawlenty.
- Even with little growth in government spending, average state spending per student increased 107 percent from 2003 to 2010.

Minnesota’s higher education system was also challenged and improved.

- Proposed and established a new higher-education institution in Rochester, the University of Minnesota-Rochester, with an emphasis on medicine, business and technology.

- Created Centers of Excellence across the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.
- Required that 25 percent of MnSCU courses be taught through online learning.
- Proposed and funded the new Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics, an innovative partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic and Hospital.

Enhancing Energy Resources

Our nation’s energy must be “Americanized,” reliable, cost-effective, environmentally superior, and less reliant on foreign sources. For eight years, the Pawlenty Administration has promoted this approach in order to provide a cleaner, more secure energy future and to support economic development and job creation.

- Established Minnesota as America’s “Renewable Fuels Capital,” by doubling the amount of ethanol to be used in Minnesota’s gasoline from 10 percent to 20 percent.
- Implemented the nation’s first biodiesel requirement.
- Established a nation-leading goal of 800 megawatts of locally-owned Minnesota wind projects by 2010.
- Proposed and passed a 25 x ’25 renewable energy standard – one of the strongest in the nation – requiring 25 percent of the energy used in Minnesota will come from renewable sources by 2025.
- Proposed and passed the Mercury Emissions Reduction legislation to reduce toxic mercury emitted by the states three largest non-nuclear power plants.

Improving health care through market forces

Nearly every budget in America is being crushed by sky-rocketing health care costs that are unsustainable and crowding out other priorities. The Pawlenty Administration has addressed that by concentrating on solutions that are patient-centered, market-driven and quality-focused

- Passed health care reform legislation that is estimated to have the potential for cost savings of about 12 percent by 2015. This represents savings of about \$6.9 billion compared to baseline projections.
- This groundbreaking bill includes payment reform based on financial incentives to improve quality, reduce cost, engage consumers in decision-making, and encourage more competition.
- Using market forces, choice and cost incentives, health care costs were held down for Minnesota’s 50,000 member state workforce.
- Developed a report card for nursing homes to guide family decision-making.

Creating Modern Infrastructure

The Pawlenty Administration has invested in improved infrastructure that supports our economy and way of life.

- Proposed and implemented \$900 million in critical state highway and bridge projects authorized in the 2003 transportation bill – the largest infusion of transportation funding in Minnesota’s history, financing 20 major projects more than a cumulative 70 years ahead of schedule.
- Expanded the Twins Cities transit system, including bus-rapid transit, operation of the Hiawatha and North Star rail lines, and development of the Central Corridor light rail between Minneapolis and Saint Paul.
- Established the first ever statewide passenger and freight rail plan.

Making Government More Accountable

Taxpayers expect a government that works just as hard as they do – with similar compensation. The Pawlenty Administration has successfully reined in the size and scope of government.

- State government permanent employment has remained flat since 2003.
- Over the last 8 years, state employee wage increases have been below the growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- Implemented a nation-leading reform of state employee health insurance to drive down costs, increase choice and accountability.
- Enacted state employee pension reform, projected to save \$2.1 billion over five years.
- Took on a 44-day transit strike to drive down long-term liabilities for employee post-retirement benefits.
- Governor Pawlenty’s Drive to Excellence initiative has saved state and local governments more than \$250 million on goods and services.

Honoring Our Military Members and Veterans

Our freedoms are assured by those who defend them. Governor and First Lady Pawlenty have honored a commitment to support those who serve a priority from day one.

- Created the “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” program to support soldiers and their families returning from deployment, which now is a national model for states.
- Modernized and enhanced a variety of support programs and benefits for members of the military, their families and families, including: increased property tax relief for disabled vets; creation of the Veterans health Care Advisory Council; 100 percent tuition reimbursement for the National Guard; and increased funding and oversight for Veterans Homes.
- Created the Minnesota Military Family Care Initiative to provide assistance to military families during deployments.
- Established Korean War Armistice Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and funded the Minnesota World War II memorial.
- Created the “Support our troops” license plate and fund, as well as the Gold Star license plate recognizing surviving family members.

Improving Minnesota's Quality of Life

Governor Pawlenty led efforts to enhance amenities that improved Minnesota's quality of life. These include:

- Passing a statewide ban on smoking in bars and restaurants.
- Helping to bring Gopher football back to the University of Minnesota campus.
- Authorizing Hennepin County to fund for a new Twins stadium.
- Creating Lake Vermilion State park, the state's first new state park in almost 30 years.
- Aiding in the creation of the 38,000 acre Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.
- Starting the tradition of the Minnesota Governor's Deer Hunting Opener.
- Achieving sustainable certification for 4.8 million acres of Minnesota forest land – the largest certified land base in America.