What to Expect in the Regent Election Process and Beyond
2026–2027 Regent Candidate Cycle

The Regent Candidate Advisory Council ("RCAC") Process

The RCAC process includes the following phases:

1. Application Submission: Candidates must submit a completed application for consideration by December ___, 2026.

2. Application Review. RCAC members review applications prior to the December ___, 2026 Review Meeting. During the Review Meeting, the RCAC members determine which applicants will be invited to attend in-person interviews (each an "Interviewee") in early January 2027. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the Review Meeting shortly after the conclusion of the Review Meeting. Interviewees will also receive an email that outlines the interview process and arrangements will begin to schedule an interview date.

3. Reference Checks. Two of the references included on an Interviewee's application will be contacted after the Review Meeting and prior to December 24, 2026. A standardized set of reference questions will be emailed to each selected reference and written responses are provided to RCAC members prior to the In-Person Interview to review.

4. In-Person Interviews: In-person interviews will be conducted the week of January___, 2027. On the day of an Interviewee's interview, applicants will have the opportunity to provide RCAC council members with a one-page overview of their qualifications and background at the beginning of the interview session. Voting on which Interviewees will be forwarded to the Joint Committee for Higher Education for consideration typically takes place on the Friday of interview week. The RCAC is required to send forward a minimum of two (2) candidates and up to a maximum of four (4) candidates for each Regent seat that is being filled. All Interviewees will be informed of the outcome of voting after voting has been finalized.

If you are recommended to the Legislature by the RCAC:

Being recommended by the RCAC for consideration by the Joint Higher Education Committee for the position of Regent is the first step in the Regent election process. The Joint Higher Education Committee is comprised of the members of both the Senate Higher Education Committee and the House of Representatives Higher Education Committee.

Some of the subsequent steps in the election process include:

1. Presentation to the Joint Higher Education Committee (the "Committee"):
   Each candidate recommended by the RCAC is eligible to be invited to present their qualifications at a hearing of the Committee. By statute, this hearing must occur by February 28th. The purpose of this hearing is for the Committee to learn more about each candidate in order to enable the Committee to provide its recommendation to the Joint Legislative Convention of the House and Senate ahead of the election vote. The Joint Higher Education Committee may also nominate candidates other than those recommended by RCAC.

For Regent seats that are open for specific congressional districts, a delegation of legislators from that district may also hold their own meeting to screen candidates and may make a separate recommendation to the Committee.

2. Presenting Your Candidacy to the Legislature:
   After recommendation by the RCAC, it is important that you connect with the members of the Legislature – both House and Senate – to ensure that they are aware of your candidacy and your qualifications for the position of Regent. This typically includes spending time at the Capitol to personally meet with legislators until the Joint Legislative Convention is held.

3. Attending Candidate Events:
   There generally is at least one event - the Regent Candidate Forum - hosted by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. This forum is intended to provide an opportunity for legislators and others to meet candidates and learn more about their qualifications.

4. The Joint Legislative Convention:
   The legislature elects Regents at a Joint Legislative Convention of the House and the Senate, which takes place on the floor of the House of Representatives. Typically, candidates recommended by the Joint Higher Education Committee are automatically nominated for possible election at this Joint Legislative Convention. Other nominations may also be accepted at the Joint Legislative Convention as part of this process. The date of the Joint Legislative Convention is decided by House and Senate leadership and is governed by the joint rules of the House and Senate.

If you are elected Regent by the Legislature:

The following information is provided by the Office of the Board of Regents:

Service as a Regent of the University of Minnesota is time-intensive, fast-paced, and demanding. If elected as a Regent, you can expect to spend significant time on the following:

1. Onboarding:
   Newly elected Regents undergo an extensive onboarding process during the first six to nine months of their term, which includes but is not limited to:
   - Time with Board leadership, other Regents, and the President.
   - Briefings on public governance, including the University's constitutional autonomy, Open Meeting Law, Data Practices Act, the Board's code of conduct, and financial disclosure requirements. Regents frequently find that they need to step away from other commitments that represent a potential conflict of interest with their new role.
   - Briefings on the Board's oversight role, its authority and delegations, its committee structure, and meeting fundamentals.
   - Meetings with a variety of University senior leaders and shared governance leaders regarding key academic and operational aspects of the University.
   - Multi-day trips to visit the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester and Twin Cities campuses.

2. Board of Regent Meetings:
   The Board of Regents typically holds 9 meetings a year, which include both regular and item-specific meetings, at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus. In addition, 3 sets of dates are identified each year for active learning, which may involve travel to one of the University's campuses, research sites, or other locations. Suchmeetings and active learning sessions take place

every month except January and August; the Board's annual schedule is finalized each June. The July meeting includes an annual retreat, typically held at a location outside the Twin Cities metro, most recently at the University's Itasca Biological Station & Laboratories. In addition, the Board may call a varying number of special meetings, which are held as needed to respond to the needs of the University.

Regents are provided with meeting materials – called a "docket" – seven days prior to regular and item-specific meetings. Dockets provide the information, background, resolutions, policies, and other materials necessary for full engagement and sound decision making. Dockets for all committees and the full Board can run hundreds of pages. They are delivered electronically to the Board via its portal; printed materials are not provided.

All meetings of the Board are public, livestreamed, recorded, and linked from the Board's website. All Regent candidates are encouraged to attend or watch online meetings of the full Board of Regents and its committees to better understand the typical work, meeting processes, and issues facing the University. In addition, past meeting agendas, docket materials, video recordings, and minutes are available on the Board's website at regents.umn.edu/meeting-materials.

3. Leadership and Committee Membership:
   The small size of the Board of Regents means each of its members plays a significant role. Each Regent should be prepared to serve in a leadership role, which brings an expectation of additional time spent on Board business outside of regularly scheduled meetings. In 2026–27, the Board has six standing committees, with each Regent sitting on four committees. The Board elects a chair and co-vice chairs every two years, and every two years the Board chair appoints a chair and vice chair for each standing committee and any special committees. In addition, Regents are appointed by the Board chair to represent the Board on the boards of affiliated organizations and to chair other, non-Board committees.

4. Representation at University Events:
   In addition to its public meetings, annual retreat, and active learning days, Regents:
   - Confer all University degrees through attendance at the nearly 30 graduation ceremonies systemwide each spring. Each Regent is expected to confer degrees at 2-4 graduations annually.
   - Attend meetings with members of accreditation review teams, as needed.
   - Deliver remarks at awards ceremonies, groundbreakings, building openings, and other significant University events. Regents are frequently invited to address University student, staff, faculty, alumni, and retiree groups, as well as civic, community, and business gatherings.
   - Receive invitations to dozens of optional University and related events each year.