

## HOSTING A LEGISLATIVE BREWERY TOUR

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Brief Overview of the MN Legislature
- Legislative Calendar
- Legislator Availability
- Hosting a Legislator



# MINNESOTA

**CRAFT BREWERS GUILD**

**BREWERS OF THE NORTH**

[MNCRAFTBREW.ORG](http://MNCRAFTBREW.ORG)

### GUIDE TO HOSTING A LEGISLATOR

Allowing members of the Legislature to see firsthand the vitality and importance of the craft brewing industry will generate a supportive voice for the MN Craft Brewers Guild in our ongoing effort to eliminate unnecessary restrictions that hold back businesses at every level of the beery supply chain and limit consumers' choices.

#### MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE: AN INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Legislature is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives consisting of 67 and 134 members, respectively. Members of the House are elected for two-year terms, while Senators are elected for four-year terms.

House and Senate districts are apportioned on the basis of population. Each member of the House represents approximately 40,000 people, and each Senator represents about 80,000 people.

Currently, the House is controlled by the DFL, while the Senate is controlled by the Republicans.

The Minnesota legislature is a part-time legislature meaning they only convene January through May. Many legislators work another job during the interim.

When in a legislative session, the legislature holds committee hearings and floor session votes Monday-Thursday. Fridays through Sunday, legislators normally return home to their district. This is usually the best time to host a tour of your brewery.

# MINNESOTA CRAFT BREWERS GUILD

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR AND SCHEDULE A VISIT

### STEP 1: IDENTIFY YOUR LEGISLATORS

To search for your legislators, you can enter your brewery's street address at this website:

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>.

### STEP 2: CORRESPONDING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

Once you find your legislators, you will want to contact their office via email or phone. Often times, it is easier for legislative staffers to answer quickly through email.

Correspondence should include:

- Your name, business, and business address.
- Multiple dates you are available to host the legislator. Offer 3-4 options for a 1-hour meeting and let the legislator choose what works best for their schedule.
- Typically, an appointment with a legislator lasts 30 minutes to 1 hour. Put your most important information at the beginning of the meeting in case they have to leave early.

If the legislator's office hasn't responded to your email after a week, feel free to give them a call and follow up on your request. Please be polite when speaking to legislative assistants - they receive countless meeting and event requests daily, on top of their other work.

Being flexible and understanding is important to cultivating a good relationship with your legislators. Many legislators work another job outside of the legislature, therefore your patience is appreciated. Legislators usually prioritize meetings with constituents and local business leaders, but it can often take a week or more to schedule a date on their calendar.

## IMPORTANT 2020 DATES

FEB 11 | LEGISLATURE CONVENES

MAR 3 | LOBBY DAY

MAY 18 | LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

NOV 2 | 2020 ELECTIONS

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CAN I OFFER A LEGISLATOR A BEER OR A GROWLER?

A legislator can't accept anything valued at more than \$5 unless it's being offered free to everyone. You're safe offering a beverage on the house but leave the growlers and crowlers on the shelf.

### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT MY LEGISLATOR AHEAD OF TIME?

Look them up online (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/legdb/current>) and find out more about what they do when they're not at the Capitol, where they were born, how many kids they have, etc.

### WHAT SHOULD I TALK ABOUT?

Kick off the conversation with some information about your brewery -- give them a tour, show them the equipment, talk about how you got started --share your story!

From there, you can talk about how you're part of your community (who uses your taproom for meetings, what kinds of fundraisers or charitable events have you supported, etc.), what your plans are for growing, and where you'd like to see the craft brewing industry go next.

If you're up for it, you can get into the Guild's advocacy efforts and changes we'd like to see at the Capitol. Reach out to Lauren ([lauren@mncraftbrew.org](mailto:lauren@mncraftbrew.org)) if you'd like to have her attend the meeting to support the conversation.