



Pawlenty Administration 2003-2009 Accomplishments Highlights

Executive Summary

Under Governor Pawlenty's leadership, Minnesota has established a reputation as one of the nation's most innovative and reform-oriented states. Here are some of the highlights of the Pawlenty Administration's accomplishments:

BUDGET & TAXES

- **Balanced the state budget four times without raising taxes**, including eliminating a \$4.5 billion deficit in 2003 and a \$4.8 billion deficit in 2009.
- **Will use executive actions to resolve** the remaining \$2.7 billion shortfall in the FY 2010-11 budget. The Governor's actions will result in the state general fund budget decreasing in real terms from FY 2008-09 to FY 2010-11, the first such decrease in the state's history.
- Succeeded in achieving the long-standing state goal of **moving Minnesota out of the top ten highest taxed states**, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. Signed into law nearly **\$800 million in total tax reductions** and a **three-year local property tax cap**, projected to save taxpayers \$78.5 million in 2009 and \$460.5 million over the next three years.
- **Reduced state government growth** to average two-year budget increases of less than 6 percent during the past six years, the lowest budget increases under any Minnesota Governor in at least the past 40 years.

BUSINESS & JOBS

- Created the **Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ)** program to stimulate economic activity in Greater Minnesota. Since its creation, JOBZ has been used in 323 projects, resulting in commitments of 5,169 new jobs, helping to retain 9,743 existing jobs and producing more than \$580 million in new capital investments.

ENERGY

- Established Minnesota as America's "**Renewable Fuels Capital**," by **doubling the amount of renewable fuel** to be used in Minnesota's gasoline from 10% to 20%, implementing the **nation's first biodiesel standard**, and establishing a nation-leading goal of 800 megawatts of locally-owned **Minnesota wind projects** by 2010.

- Proposed and signed a **25 x '25 renewable energy standard** – one of the strongest in the nation. Twenty-five percent of the energy used in Minnesota will come from renewable sources by 2025.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

- **Reorganized and consolidated state government agencies**, eliminating Minnesota Planning by combining it with the Department of Administration, merging the Departments of Economic Security and Trade and Economic Development and merging the Department of Employee Relations into the Departments of Finance and Administration, reducing overhead and saving taxpayer resources.

HEALTH CARE

- Passed health care reform legislation that is estimated to have the potential for cost savings of about 12 percent by 2015. This represents a **potential 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Announced a plan to have **25 percent of all credits** at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities **earned through online courses** by 2015. In the last academic year, 9.2 percent of all registered credits at MnSCU colleges and universities were through online courses.
- Created **Centers of Excellence** to establish flagship programs within the state colleges and universities that build on regional economic strengths such as manufacturing technology, science, engineering, and health care. Also proposed and established a new higher-education institution in Rochester, the **University of Minnesota-Rochester**, with an emphasis on medicine, business and technology.

K-12 EDUCATION

- Created and implemented the nation-leading teacher performance pay reform, **Q Comp**, linking teacher compensation to classroom and student achievement, rather than just seniority.
- Repealed the Profile of Learning and created the **Minnesota Academic Standards**, with new, more rigorous graduation requirements

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Proposed and signed into law **longer sentences for all categories of sex offenders** with new sentencing guidelines, including life in prison without release for the worst sex offenders and passed **aggressive restrictions** to prevent manufacture of methamphetamine.

TRANSPORTATION

- 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.