



The programs are:

**Timely.**

What policy issues are people already talking or asking about? What's in the news?

**Interactive.**

Our workshops and presentations allow for significant audience participation, and many allow employees to contribute meaningfully to policy development.

**Brief.**

Programs begin and end on time, and can occur at any time during the workday.

**Constructive.**

Employees learn more about, and see their roles in addressing, public issues.

*For over 66 years, the Citizens League has created common ground across parties and ideologies to solve some of the biggest challenges facing Minnesota. On issues like schools, taxes, transportation, and health care, some of Minnesota's greatest public achievements have emerged from the Citizens League. Citizens League members connect with other Minnesotans, learn to lead on issues that matter to them and create solutions that achieve the common good*

We can also plan sessions around your policy priorities or your employees' interests.

Contact

Sarah Stout Miller at [ssoutmiller@citizensleague.org](mailto:ssoutmiller@citizensleague.org) or 651.289.1081 to plan your sessions

# Citizens League Workplace Policy Programs

## Civics, Policy, and Politics

**2020 Legislative Session** Join GOP and DFL experts in a discussion about the 2020 legislative session. Speakers will discuss what people should know about this year's session, and the negotiations that will likely happen within committees, anticipated budget proposals, and the like. What items will be the big focus and pinch points this year at the Legislature?

**At the Intersection of Policy and Politics** What is happening in public policy and politics? What are the insiders saying and how will you be impacted? The intersection of public policy and politics – and how it impacts people and businesses. Hear from people who served at the highest staff levels of government about what happens behind the scenes to drive and influence public policy.

**The Courts and Democracy** Join former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson for a highly engaging, interactive and informative session on the role of the judiciary in United States history and our democracy. Using history, philosophy, politics (and humor) Justice Anderson connects our past and our future through the lens of the courts in the United States.

**More Places to Call Home** In 2018, Governor Mark Dayton's task force on housing offered "30 recommendations to improve access to good, affordable homes across all types, prices, and locations" in Minnesota. What did the recommendations include? What are the biggest challenges to Minnesota households finding affordable housing? Join task force co-chairs to hear about the recommendations and next steps with a new administration.

**News – Is it Fake? Is it biased? It is incomplete? Is there just too much of it? How is it we get totally different views of the same news stories, and it seems like some stories we really don't hear at all? And how can I, as a consumer of news, be both informed and challenged by the news I consume? These are the questions that we tackle as we discuss the phenomenon known as "fake news".**

**A View beyond Party Lines** We bring in members of the print and broadcast media, or public affairs professionals, to discuss partisanship, policymaking, and election trends.

## Demographics

**Changing Face of Minnesota** Minnesota Compass is a social indicators project that measures progress in our state, its seven regions, 87 counties and larger cities. Compass tracks trends in topic areas such as education, economy and workforce, health, housing, public safety, and a host of others. Staff at Minnesota Compass, will present some of this work to help us better understand the issues.

**The Graying of Minnesota** We'll discuss what the increase in Minnesota's (and the nation's) aging population means for our policies and individual decisions around workforce development, long-term care financing, and end-of-life decision making.

**Census 2020** What is the federal census? What data is collected, and how is it used? What is the controversy surrounding the possibility of adding a citizenship question? Speakers will shed some light on those questions and the potential impact of the 2020 census in Minnesota for communities and employers.

**Talent Attraction and Retention** The MSP region is experiencing a talent crunch. While communities are ramping up efforts to attract talent, the best approach actually starts with retention and when it comes to professionals of color, research shows that retention rates are not nearly as high. GREATER MSP's Matt Lewis, Director of *Make It MSP.*, will share research on thousands of professionals, and how employees can use these insights to take action.

## Education & Health

**Moving our Mental Health System Forward** While we have the foundation for a better mental health system, what are the barriers to meeting the demand for mental health treatment and supports when parity, funding, and the needed workforce is in short supply? And what can we do about it? Speakers will help us answer these questions.

**Minnesota's Teacher Licensure System: Broken, but Not Beyond Repair** In 2016, the non-partisan Office of the Legislative Auditor found that teacher licensing in Minnesota is confusing, broken, and in need of an overhaul. What potential changes could take place to improve, modernize, streamline, and clarify teacher licensure?

**Who guides the guidance counselors? Career-based learning experiences for teachers/counselors to help them effectively help students** Learn how a cadre of teaching/counseling professionals are learning to bridge career and tech education with actual work-sites to understand the breadth of career opportunities available so they can pass this on to student learners.

**Reframing Post-Secondary Education** Learn how the Citizens League is working to change a system oriented toward credits and degrees to one oriented toward learning, and implications for our future workforce.

## Environment and Infrastructure

Don't Get Run-Over by Driverless Cars Will new technology and services will force us to ask: how much and what kind of infrastructure will we need in the near future? Thomas Fisher, Director of the Minnesota Design Center at the University of Minnesota, leads a conversation about how to rethink our roads in the 21st Century.

How do you get to work? State transportation leaders discuss transportation modes and trends.

## Taxes, Budgeting, and the Economy

What, Me Worry? Tax and Spending Policies Today Versus the Challenges of Tomorrow The current economic expansion is rapidly approaching the longest in US. History, but some major challenges loom in our future creating conflict between current expectations and future realities. We will take a closer look at some federal and state policy issues in the news, discuss their implications, and what it means for securing a sound fiscal future.

Pension Tension State public pensions should have \$16B more in investments right now to pay for future retirement benefits that have already been earned by public employees. How did we get here? Is there a problem? If so, how big is the problem, and what can be done? Mark Haveman, executive director of the Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence explains the issue.