

MINNESOTA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WITH SONNIE ELLIOTT

The Minnesota State legislative session will adjourn no later than May 20, 2024. As lawmakers move into the final weeks, they are hurriedly trying to pass bills they hope will become law.

Because the legislature set the two-year budget for the state last year, any new spending to come out of the current legislative session is limited to supplemental or emergency funding. The DFL trifecta of leadership has also been “cleaning up” laws passed in 2023 that needed further work.

The strength of the Senate DFL one-vote majority was tested last week. Senator Nicole Mitchell (Woodbury) was charged with first degree burglary on April 22nd, 2024, a charge which could result in a felony if she is convicted. There was confusion last week while it was determined whether Sen. Mitchell would be allowed to vote in the Senate following the allegations. She returned to the Senate yesterday and was voting; after the Senate Majority called an ethics hearing and removed her committee assignments.

With the Democrats firmly in control of all three lawmaking bodies, BOMA has been careful to watch for any new energy or other building regulations, funding to address homelessness, and opportunities to promote return to work policies; focused on state government employees.

Heading Home Ramsey is the county’s continuum of care to create and implement cost effective solutions to end homelessness. BOMA St. Paul has supported these past efforts of the county and we are again supporting the initiative moving forward. The legislature has appropriated funding to address these concerns, and these will be decided before the session ends.

Throughout the months of January – May, BOMA St. Paul has been meeting with other interested associations and government entities regarding St. Paul and it’s initiatives at the state level. These discussions encourage a unified approach to advocating for the region’s priorities. The concerns BOMA has with state government employees returning to work is shared by others in the east metro. This working group could serve as the start of a coalition of like-minded entities asking for a return to work for state employees.