



LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

**MARCH 24–25,
2026**

*Drury Plaza Hotel,
St. Paul, MN*

MMUA
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

Legislative Conference Program

Tuesday, March 24

All sessions in Empire Ballroom

- 8:30 am **Registration**
- 9:15 am **Welcome and conference overview**
Roger Warehime, General Manager, Owatonna Public Utilities
Karleen Kos, CEO, MMUA
- 9:30 am **Opening keynote —The impact of the loss of institutional
memory at the State Capitol**
Blois Olson, Fluence Advisory
- 10:30 am **Conference break**
- 10:45 am **The role of utilities in safeguarding elections**
Barbara Conti, Department of Commerce
Grace Doyle, Office of the Secretary of State
Kyle Jenner, Office of the Secretary of State
Chris Watkins, Department of Commerce
- 11:15 am **MMUA 2026 legislative agenda—Where we are and
where we want to be**
Kent Sulem and Bill Black, Government Relations, MMUA
- 11:45 am **Lunch served**
- 12:30 pm–
4:00 pm **Meet with legislators** (please make appointments)
Shuttle service between the hotel and the Capitol will run
from 12:30–8:00 pm.
- 4:30 pm–
7:30 pm **Legislative reception**
Invite your legislators to join us! Shuttle service is provided
through the end of the event.

Legislative Conference Program

Wednesday, March 25

- 9:00 am **Feedback from legislative visits**
Attendees will share comments from their afternoons on the hill.
- 9:30 am **Building public support**
Elizabeth Emerson George and Sara Swenson, Goff Public
- 10:15 am **Conference break**
- 10:30 am **Options for financing utility projects**
Mia Thibodeau, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.
- 11:15 am **Staying above reproach when working with public dollars**
Julie Blaha, Minnesota State Auditor
- 12:00 pm **Conference adjourns**
Hotel check out is at 11:00 am.

Legislative Conference

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