



Office on the Economic Status of Women

Quarterly Newsletter
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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR!

Images of the Massachusetts State House.

This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the National Association of Commissions on Women's (NACW) annual conference in Boston, MA. This four day conference provided a multitude of learning opportunities on topics ranging from human trafficking and language accessibility to best practices from other Women's Commissions and a tour of the Massachusetts State House (pictured above).

While the information and tools I brought home will help me with my day-to-day work, the connections and relationships I built with women doing similar work across the country is truly invaluable. I also was elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors to the NACW. Looking forward to continuing working with this awesome group of people!

Additionally, over the summer I got to work with the OESW Research and Communications Assistant,

Kate Alpiner Geddes, which was a remarkable learning experience for both of us! We re-branded, re-established the newsletter, and set up our social media accounts (go follow us - links are on the last page). Kate's back at school this fall and we miss her dearly; we wish her all the best as she finishes her second year at the Humphrey School studying for her Masters in Human Rights!

The OESW Advisory Committee has been active this summer and fall, focused on Childcare. More details are included on page 2. I anticipate Childcare will continue to be a focus are moving into 2025.

Speaking of 2025, a new legislative convenes on January 14! I'll be tracking bills and attending hearings - if you're going to be at the capitol, drop me a line to say "hi."

Happy holidays, see you in the new year!
Heather J. Heyer

OESW 2024 CHILDCARE IN MINNESOTA FACT SHEET

Not only was childcare a hot topic in the 2024 presidential race, it was top of mind for the OESW as well. The OESW released a three-page fact sheet related to childcare in Minnesota. The highlights (pictured in the above image) include:

- Minnesota is the 4th most expensive state for center-based infant childcare.
- The annual cost of center-based infant childcare in 2024 was \$20,165.
- Undergraduate resident tuition at the University of Minnesota in 2024 was \$15,184.
- Minnesota is among the 10 most affordable states for family childcare (a.k.a. home daycare).
- Since 2014, Minnesota has lost over 4,000 family childcare businesses.
- Family childcare providers are more likely to be outside the Twin Cities metro area: 66% are located in Greater Minnesota.

2024 FACT SHEET
CHILDCARE
IN MINNESOTA

Child Care Centers: Also referred to as daycare centers. Typically based in commercial property, but also in faith-based facilities. Can be for-profit or not-for-profit.

Family Child Care: Frequently referred to as a home daycare and typically based in the provider's home.

4TH MOST EXPENSIVE STATE FOR CENTER-BASED INFANT CHILD CARE¹

Annual cost of **center-based infant child care** in 2024:
\$20,165⁴

Undergraduate resident tuition at the University of Minnesota in 2024:
\$15,148⁵

Minnesota is among the **10 most affordable states** for family child care.²

However, since 2014, **Minnesota has lost over 4,000** family child care businesses.³

Family child care providers are more likely to be outside the Twin Cities metro area: **66%** are located in Greater Minnesota.⁶

Image of the first page of the childcare fact sheet.

The full three-page fact sheet is available online at <https://bity.ly/ChildcareMN2024>.

OESW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECAPS



At the first OESW Advisory Committee meeting on July 10, the committee appointed co-chairs: Representative Robbins and Senator Pappas. They discussed the duties of the committee and reviewed a very brief history of the OESW. There was total agreement amongst the Committee that childcare presents a serious economic issue for women all over Minnesota. The Committee also encouraged further analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childcare access and costs. Literacy rates, educational attainment, and career readiness were identified

as pressing issues, as well as an emphasis on the use of disaggregated data to better represent the diversity of experiences of women in Minnesota. These issues will be at the forefront of the Office's reporting work going forward in order to better inform the Legislature on the economic status of women across the state.

continued on next page.

OESW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECAPS, CONTINUED

At the second meeting, on August 28, they heard from Dr. Christina Ewig, Director of the Center on Women, Gender and Public Policy, Humphrey School and Professor of Public Affairs, at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on the connection between unpaid care work, childcare cost and access, and women's economic opportunity. They reviewed a the OESW 2024 Fact Sheet on childcare in Minnesota, and discussed the cost of childcare across the state, the impact of COVID-19 on childcare access, and paths forward to support working Minnesotans.

On November 18, the third OESW meeting took place, and they received a presentation from the Minnesota Department of Human Service regarding the Childcare Regulation Modernization project. This project is a result of legislation passed in 2021, and includes three subprojects for both Family Child Care and Child Care Centers. The presentation focused mainly on the revised licensing standards. We also received public testimony related to this topic.

Meeting materials and video archives are available online at:
https://www.oesw.mn.gov/meetings/2023_2024_meetings.html.

2024 ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA

On November 13, I had the distinct honor to be a panelist for an event, Voices from the Field: A Post-Election Evening, hosted by The Woman's Club of Minneapolis and the League of Women Voter's Minnesota. The moderator, Lori Sturdevant of the Minnesota Star Tribune asked, "what is the current status of women in Minnesota?" Being a bit of a data nerd, I responded with the numbers.

There was one special election in the Minnesota Senate (District 45), which featured two women, Amy Steward Johnson (DFL) and Kathleen Fowke (R), to replace outgoing Senator Kelly Morrison. As such, the composition of the Minnesota Senate remains unchanged with 22 women in office (32%).

In the Minnesota House, all 134 seats were up for election. Fifty two women were elected to office, two less than the previous biennium of 54, for a total of 39% of women in the House of Representatives. Overall between the two bodies, **the total percentage of women in the state legislature is 37%, a drop of one percentage point from the 2022-2023 session when it was 38%.**

In terms of the federal races in Minnesota, there was a major party (Republican or Democrat) woman candidate for every race across the state: U.S. President, U.S. Senate, and all eight U.S. Congressional District races. Women are the majority of the Minnesota federal delegation, with both U.S. Senators, and five out of eight U.S. House of Representatives.

A recording of the events is available on [Youtube](#).

MINNESOTA'S FEDERAL DELEGATION IS MAJORITY WOMEN

Both Senators, and five out of eight Representatives are women.

All federal races in Minnesota featured a woman as a major party candidate (Republican or Democrat). In other words, **every voter in Minnesota had the option to vote for a woman for President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives.**

The infographic features a woman in a black dress standing at a ballot box. The ballot box has several rows of circles for voting. The background is yellow with wavy lines at the bottom.

WINTER READING LIST



Like many others, I enjoy a good beach read in the summer and I can't help but recommend Minnesota's Abby Jiminez's latest book, [Just for Summer](#). This fall, I read another quasi-historical fiction book that I really enjoyed: [By Any Other Name](#) by Jodi Picoult. While the book is fiction, Picoult conducted extensive research and you may be converted to an anti-Stratfordian (someone who believes that Shakespeare was not necessarily the author of his works).

This winter, I've got a heavier line up of books to read, including:

- [Fair Shake: Women & the Fight to Build a Just Economy](#) by Naomi Cahn, June Carbone, and Nancy Levit
- [Holding It Together](#) by Jessica Calarco

If you have book, or podcast recommendations, send them my way oesw@lcc.mn.gov!

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"About the most joyous thing a woman can have is a big, hard job everyday, and the courage to tackle it."

ALICE AMES WINTER

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