

State of Minnesota
Legislative Audit Commission
Possible Evaluation Topics for 2026–2027
April 10, 2026

| | |
|---|-----------|
| REQUESTED FOLLOW-UP EVALUATIONS..... | 7 |
| 1. Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders | 7 |
| 2. Department of Human Services (DHS) Oversight of Personal Care Assistance..... | 7 |
| 3. “Green Acres” and Agricultural Land Preservation Programs..... | 7 |
| 4. Guardian ad Litem Program..... | 8 |
| 5. Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS): Financial Oversight..... | 8 |
| 6. Minnesota Board of Nursing: Complaint Resolution Process..... | 8 |
| 7. Minnesota Department of Human Rights: Complaint Resolution Process | 8 |
| 8. Minnesota State High School League | 8 |
| 9. Minnesota Research Tax Credit | 9 |
| 10. Office of Health Facility Complaints | 9 |
| 11. State Protections for Meatpacking Workers..... | 9 |
| 12. Tax Compliance | 9 |
| BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AUTHORITIES, OR TASK FORCES..... | 9 |
| 13. Competency Attainment Board Management of the Competency Attainment Program | 9 |
| 14. Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB) | 9 |
| 15. Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Board: Data Access Rules | 9 |
| 16. Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board | 9 |
| 17. Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy..... | 10 |
| 18. Minnesota Board of Social Work..... | 10 |
| 19. Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards | 10 |
| 20. Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) Repatriation Efforts | 10 |
| 21. Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility..... | 10 |
| 22. Office of Ombudsperson for American Indian Families (OAIF) | 10 |
| 23. Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) | 10 |
| COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, AND ENERGY..... | 11 |
| 24. Angel Tax Credit..... | 11 |
| 25. CareerForce..... | 11 |
| 26. Department of Labor and Industry’s (DLI’s) Labor Standards Investigations..... | 11 |
| 27. Energy and Weatherization Assistance Programs (EAP and WAP) | 11 |
| 28. Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection..... | 11 |
| 29. Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML)..... | 11 |
| 30. Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (Petrofund)..... | 11 |
| 31. Prevailing Wage Compliance..... | 11 |
| 32. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Oversight of Electric Utilities | 11 |
| 33. PUC Oversight of Smart Meter Installations | 11 |
| CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND JUDICIARY | 12 |
| 34. Community Crime Intervention and Prevention (CCIP) Grant Program | 12 |
| 35. Court of Administrative Hearings: Special Education Hearings..... | 12 |
| 36. Department of Public Safety (DPS) NextGen 911 System | 12 |
| 37. DPS Private Detective and Protective Agents Board..... | 12 |
| 38. Family Court Custody Decisions | 12 |
| 39. Firefighter and Peace Officer Duty Disability Benefits | 12 |
| EDUCATION | 12 |
| 40. Minnesota State Campuses | 12 |
| 41. Nonpublic Pupil Aids Program (NPAP) | 12 |
| 42. Office of Higher Education (OHE) Oversight of Post-Secondary Educational Institutions | 12 |
| 43. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)..... | 13 |
| 44. Special Education Funding | 13 |
| 45. Special Education Funding in Charter Schools..... | 13 |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND AGRICULTURE | 13 |
| 46. Aggregate Production Tax | 13 |
| 47. Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) | 13 |
| 48. Clean Water Fund (CWF) | 13 |
| 49. Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) | 13 |
| 50. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Air Quality Permitting | 13 |
| 51. MPCA Dairy Farm Regulation | 13 |
| 52. MPCA Feedlot Permitting | 14 |
| 53. MPCA Water Infrastructure Funds and Programs | 14 |
| 54. Sustainable Building Guidelines Energy Requirements..... | 14 |
| 55. Watershed Districts | 14 |
| GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS | 14 |
| 56. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in the Public Sector | 14 |
| 57. Classification of State Employees..... | 14 |
| 58. Contractor Fraud | 14 |
| 59. Cybersecurity Incident Reporting (CIR) | 14 |
| 60. Executive Agency Return to Office (RTO) Mandate..... | 14 |
| 61. Federal Government Funding Impact on State Operations | 14 |
| 62. Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Financial Oversight | 14 |
| 63. Operation Metro Surge..... | 15 |
| 64. Use of Nondisclosure Agreements..... | 15 |
| 65. Whistleblower Protections | 15 |
| HEALTH | 15 |
| 66. Mental Health Crisis Response | 15 |
| 67. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Mortuary Science Program | 15 |
| 68. Opioid Epidemic Response Spending (OERS) | 15 |
| HUMAN SERVICES | 15 |
| 69. Adult Day Services | 15 |
| 70. Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) | 15 |
| 71. African American Family Preservation Act (AAFPA) | 16 |
| 72. Certified Peer Specialist Services | 16 |
| 73. Child Foster Care | 16 |
| 74. Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) Consultation Providers..... | 16 |
| 75. Department of Human Services (DHS) Adult Foster Care Licensing..... | 16 |
| 76. DHS and County Collaboration on Service Approvals and Provision | 16 |
| 77. DHS Budget Forecasts | 16 |
| 78. DHS HIV Supports Division..... | 16 |
| 79. DHS Oversight of Disability Services | 16 |
| 80. DHS Oversight of Disability Services Providers | 16 |
| 81. DHS Oversight of Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA) | 16 |
| 82. DHS Oversight of Grants to Nonprofit Organizations | 17 |
| 83. DHS Oversight of Medicaid Services Providers | 17 |
| 84. DHS State Medical Review Team (SMRT)..... | 17 |
| 85. DHS System Modernization | 17 |
| 86. Durable Medical Goods Purchasing..... | 17 |
| 87. Integrated Community Supports (ICS) Billing | 17 |
| 88. Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) | 17 |
| 89. Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) Efficacy | 17 |
| 90. Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs)..... | 17 |
| 91. School-Linked Behavioral Health (SLBH) Grants | 17 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 18 |
| 92. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) | 18 |
| 93. SouthWest Transit Shuttle Service..... | 18 |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| | |
|---|----|
| OTHER | 18 |
| 94. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund | 18 |
| 95. Attorney General’s Office (AGO)..... | 18 |
| 96. Corporate Concentration in Minnesota | 18 |
| 97. Meals on Wheels for Veterans | 18 |
| 98. Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Housing Stability Initiatives | 18 |
| 99. Minnesota Housing Development Fund..... | 18 |
| 100. Minnesota Housing Tax Credit | 19 |
| 101. Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)..... | 19 |
| 102. Office of the State Archeologist (OSA) | 19 |
| OLA PROGRAM EVALUATIONS, 2021–2007 | |
| Evaluations in bold are also listed above in the <i>Requested Follow-Up Evaluations</i> section. | 20 |
| 2021 | 20 |
| 1. Board of Cosmetology Licensing..... | 20 |
| 2. Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color (CUGMEC) Grant Program | 20 |
| 3. Driver Examination Stations | 20 |
| 4. MnDOT Workforce and Contracting Goals..... | 20 |
| 2020 | 20 |
| 5. Compensatory Education Revenue | 20 |
| 6. DHS Oversight of Personal Care Assistance | 21 |
| 7. Minnesota Department of Human Rights: Complaint Resolution Process | 21 |
| 8. Pesticide Regulation..... | 21 |
| 9. Public Utilities Commission’s Public Participation Processes | 21 |
| 10. Safety in State Correctional Facilities..... | 21 |
| 2019 | 22 |
| 11. Debt Service Equalization for School Facilities..... | 22 |
| 12. Economic Development and Housing Challenge Program | 22 |
| 13. Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Administration | 22 |
| 14. MnDOT Measures of Financial Effectiveness | 22 |
| 15. Office of Minnesota Information Technology Services (MNIT) | 22 |
| 16. Public Facilities Authority: Wastewater Infrastructure Programs..... | 22 |
| 2018 | 23 |
| 17. Board of Animal Health’s Oversight of Deer and Elk Farms | 23 |
| 18. Early Childhood Programs | 23 |
| 19. Guardian ad Litem Program | 23 |
| 20. Minnesota Investment Fund..... | 23 |
| 21. Office of Health Facility Complaints | 23 |
| 22. Voter Registration..... | 24 |
| 2017 | 24 |
| 23. Clean Water Fund Outcomes | 24 |
| 24. Home- and Community-Based Services: Financial Oversight | 24 |
| 25. Minnesota Research Tax Credit | 24 |
| 26. Minnesota State High School League | 25 |
| 27. Perpich Center for Arts Education | 25 |
| 28. Standardized Student Testing..... | 25 |
| 2016 | 25 |
| 29. Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) | 25 |
| 30. Department of Natural Resources: Deer Population Management | 25 |
| 31. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)..... | 26 |
| 32. Mental Health Services in County Jails | 26 |
| 33. Minnesota Department of Health Oversight of HMO Complaint Resolution..... | 26 |
| 34. Minnesota Teacher Licensure | 26 |
| 35. MnDOT Highway Project Selection | 26 |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| | |
|---|----|
| 2015 | 27 |
| 36. Managed Care Organizations’ Administrative Expenses | 27 |
| 37. Mineral Taxation..... | 27 |
| 38. Minnesota Board of Nursing: Complaint Resolution Process | 27 |
| 39. Minnesota Film and TV Board | 27 |
| 40. Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange (MNsure) | 28 |
| 41. Recycling and Waste Reduction | 28 |
| 42. State Protections for Meatpacking Workers | 28 |
| 2014 | 28 |
| 43. Agricultural Commodity Councils..... | 28 |
| 44. Councils on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Black Minnesotans, Chicano/Latino People, and Indian Affairs | 28 |
| 45. DNR Forest Management | 29 |
| 46. Health Services in State Correctional Facilities..... | 29 |
| 47. MnDOT Selection of Pavement Surface for Road Rehabilitation | 29 |
| 2013 | 29 |
| 48. Conservation Easements | 29 |
| 49. Law Enforcement’s Use of State Databases | 30 |
| 50. Medical Assistance Payment Rates for Dental Services..... | 30 |
| 51. MnDOT Noise Barriers..... | 30 |
| 52. Special Education..... | 30 |
| 53. State Employee Union Fair Share Fee Calculations..... | 30 |
| 54. State-Operated Human Services | 31 |
| 55. Sustainable Forest Incentive Program..... | 31 |
| 2012 | 31 |
| 56. Child Protection Screening | 31 |
| 57. Consolidation of Local Governments | 31 |
| 58. Fiscal Notes..... | 31 |
| 59. Helping Communities Recover from Natural Disasters..... | 31 |
| 60. Preventive Maintenance for University of Minnesota Buildings | 32 |
| 2011 | 32 |
| 61. Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders | 32 |
| 62. Environmental Review and Permitting | 32 |
| 63. Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region..... | 32 |
| 64. K-12 Online Learning | 33 |
| 65. Medical Nonemergency Transportation..... | 33 |
| 66. The Legacy Amendment | 33 |
| 2010 | 33 |
| 67. Alternative Education Programs | 33 |
| 68. MnSCU System Office | 33 |
| 69. Natural Resource Land..... | 34 |
| 70. Public Defender System..... | 34 |
| 71. Public Libraries | 34 |
| 72. Renewable Energy Development Fund..... | 34 |
| 73. Workforce Programs | 35 |
| 2009 | 35 |
| 74. Biofuel Policies and Programs | 35 |
| 75. Capitol Complex Security | 35 |
| 76. E-Verify | 35 |
| 77. MINNCOR Industries | 36 |
| 78. MnSCU Occupational Programs..... | 36 |
| 79. Oversight of Workers’ Compensation..... | 36 |
| 80. Personal Care Assistance | 36 |
| 81. Q Comp: Quality Compensation for Teachers | 36 |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

2008 37

- 82. **“Green Acres” and Agricultural Land Preservation Programs** 37
- 83. Charter Schools 37
- 84. County Veterans Service Offices 37
- 85. Financial Management of Health Care Programs 38
- 86. JOBZ Program 38
- 87. School District Student Transportation 38
- 88. State Highways and Bridges 38

2007 38

- 89. Follow-up Review: MinnesotaCare Eligibility Determination 38
- 90. Human Services Administration 39
- 91. Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors 39
- 92. Pensions for Volunteer Firefighters 39
- 93. Postemployment Benefits for Public Employees 39
- 94. Prevailing Wages 39
- 95. State Grants to Nonprofit Organizations 40
- 96. Watershed Management 40



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Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

REQUESTED FOLLOW-UP EVALUATIONS

Per Legislative Audit Commission policy, the Commission must select at least one follow-up evaluation topic.

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| <p>1. Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2011 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the population of civilly committed sex offenders grown in Minnesota? How does the size of Minnesota’s population compare with those in other states? • What accounts for the high costs of civil commitment? How does the average cost of civil commitment in Minnesota compare with similar facilities in other states and with other public facilities in Minnesota? • Is Minnesota committing the most dangerous sex offenders? Are commitment decisions being made in a consistent manner throughout the state? • Is the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) providing appropriate treatment to civilly committed sex offenders? Why have there been no discharges from MSOP facilities? • Could some of the civilly committed sex offenders be treated in the community at a lower cost, while still providing significant safeguards for the public? |
| <p>2. Department of Human Services (DHS) Oversight of Personal Care Assistance</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2020 OLA program evaluation, which was a follow-up to a 2009 evaluation. This program is transitioning to Community First Services and Supports.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS promoted consistency and provided effective guidance for completing assessments to determine an individual’s need for personal care assistance (PCA)? • To what extent has DHS complied with requirements related to PCA agency and personal care assistant enrollment? • What procedures has DHS established for identifying fraud and abuse in PCA, and what were the results of those efforts? |
| <p>3. “Green Acres” and Agricultural Land Preservation Programs</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2008 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the Green Acres Program and the programs for preserving agricultural land, and what are their differences? • How much in property tax benefits do program participants receive, and how do the programs affect property taxes paid by nonparticipants? • How effective are the programs? • Who benefits from the Green Acres Program, and how appropriate are the program’s eligibility criteria? • How have the dollars raised as part of the agricultural land preservation programs been spent, and who oversees that spending? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>4. Guardian ad Litem Program</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2018 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have guardians ad litem fulfilled their role as required by state law? • To what extent has the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Board ensured the effective operation of the GAL Program? • To what extent has the GAL Board established appropriate minimum qualifications, screening procedures, and training requirements for guardians ad litem? • To what extent are the GAL Program’s policies and procedures for resolving complaints against guardians ad litem transparent, comprehensive, and consistently applied? |
| <p>5. Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS): Financial Oversight</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2017 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of HCBS are provided to adult Medical Assistance (MA) recipients with disabilities and the elderly, and in what settings are they delivered? • How much does the state spend, in terms of MA, to provide HCBS, what types of organizations provide HCBS, and what do the different types of HCBS cost? • To what extent has the Department of Human Services (DHS) developed the necessary tools to provide financial oversight of HCBS providers? |
| <p>6. Minnesota Board of Nursing: Complaint Resolution Process</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2015 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Minnesota Board of Nursing’s process for resolving complaints against nurses, and does it adequately protect the public and nurses? • How well does the board review and resolve complaints? • Does the Health Professionals Services Program’s (HPSP’s) work and organizational structure conflict with the board’s mission? To what extent does the program’s monitoring of nurses facilitate nurses’ rehabilitation while protecting the public? |
| <p>7. Minnesota Department of Human Rights: Complaint Resolution Process</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2020 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Human Rights established policies and procedures for investigating and resolving cases of alleged discrimination? • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Human Rights investigated alleged discrimination cases in a timely and consistent manner? |
| <p>8. Minnesota State High School League</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2017 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the League appropriately exercised its rulemaking authority regarding student eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities? Are there sufficient opportunities for public input in its bylaws, policies, procedures, and administrative activities? • To what extent have League bylaws, policies, and procedures been appropriately applied in student transfer eligibility decisions? Do appeals processes provide adequate recourse for individuals affected by League decisions? • Are changes needed to make the League more accountable to the Legislature, students, parents, member schools, and the public? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>9. Minnesota Research Tax Credit</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2017 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Minnesota’s research tax credit, and who receives it? • What are the research tax credit’s objectives, and how effectively has Minnesota’s tax credit achieved them? • How does Minnesota’s tax credit compare with similar credits in other states? • How well does Minnesota’s Department of Revenue oversee the credit? |
| <p>10. Office of Health Facility Complaints</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2018 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the Office of Health Facility Complaints (OHFC) effectively process and investigate allegations? • How often does OHFC impose sanctions or require providers to develop corrective action plans, and what types of sanctions are imposed? • Does OHFC maintain appropriate levels of communication with complainants and other stakeholders? To what extent are OHFC’s processes, reports, and website transparent and accessible? |
| <p>11. State Protections for Meatpacking Workers</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2015 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What conditions do meatpacking workers encounter on the job? • How effective are the Department of Labor and Industry’s efforts to protect the rights and safety of meatpacking workers? • To what extent are Minnesota’s laws, particularly the Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights, sufficient to protect workers? |
| <p>12. Tax Compliance</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2006 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective is the Department of Revenue’s (DOR’s) program to identify and audit taxpayers who may have incorrectly paid their taxes? • How effective are DOR’s education and assistance services to help taxpayers understand and meet their tax obligations? • How successful is DOR in collecting delinquent tax payments? |

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AUTHORITIES, OR TASK FORCES

Per Legislative Audit Commission policy, the Commission must select at least one of the following topics.

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| <p>13. Competency Attainment Board Management of the Competency Attainment Program</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Competency Attainment Program accomplished its goals? • To what extent does the program offer unique or duplicative services when compared to county and other state programs? • How well has the program met the needs of the individuals it serves? |
| <p>14. Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the GWDB fulfilled its responsibilities, including developing strategies for improving and aligning the state’s workforce development system? |
| <p>15. Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Board: Data Access Rules</p> <p><i>These questions were addressed in a 2023 OLA special review.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Guardian ad Litem Board have and follow an appropriate policy for responding to requests from the public? • How sufficient is the information the board provides on its website? |
| <p>16. Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the board fulfilled its duties to establish policies that govern the lawyer discipline system and administer the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>17. Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are requirements for mental health professionals appropriate? • How do licensing board requirements affect the supply of mental health professionals in Minnesota? • To what extent do requirements improve or restrict Minnesotans' access to care? |
| <p>18. Minnesota Board of Social Work</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do the board's licensing processes (initial and renewal) ensure that Minnesota social workers meet social work standards of practice as defined in relevant sections of Minnesota law? • To what extent does the board's investigation process efficiently and equitably resolve complaints about applicants for licensure, individuals licensed by the board, and individuals practicing social work without a license? • To what extent are the board's disciplinary and voluntary corrective actions equitable, proportional to the severity of violations, and/or sufficient to encourage compliance with the law? • To what extent does the composition of the board ensure that the board can fulfill its mission in an equitable and objective manner? |
| <p>19. Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the board managed the review and investigation of complaints against judges? • To what extent has the board recommended discipline consistently? |
| <p>20. Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) Repatriation Efforts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has MIAC acted in accordance with state and federal laws when repatriating American Indian human remains? |
| <p>21. Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility responded appropriately and in a timely manner to public complaints about attorneys? |
| <p>22. Office of Ombudsperson for American Indian Families (OAIF)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has OAIF fulfilled its statutory responsibilities? |
| <p>23. Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does PELSB manage licensing, licensure appeals, and licensure waivers and variances in a transparent and consistent manner? • How well does PELSB ensure that licensed Minnesota educators provide high quality education? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, AND ENERGY | |
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| 24. Angel Tax Credit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the credit spurred investment that would not have otherwise occurred? • To what extent have businesses that received the credit created sustainable jobs and economic activity in Minnesota? |
| 25. CareerForce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How successfully has CareerForce connected job seekers and employers throughout Minnesota? • How well have the Department of Employment and Economic Development and Workforce Development Boards collaborated to support and oversee CareerForce? |
| 26. Department of Labor and Industry’s (DLI’s) Labor Standards Investigations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively has DLI prevented, identified, and corrected labor standards violations? • To what extent has DLI addressed labor standard complaints in a timely and consistent way? |
| 27. Energy and Weatherization Assistance Programs (EAP and WAP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have EAP and WAP met the needs of the populations they are intended to benefit? How, if at all, could the programs be amended to better meet long term needs? • How well has the Department of Commerce managed EAP and WAP? |
| 28. Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How efficient is the application process for solar power interconnection? • To what extent is the application process transparent and consistent across utilities? |
| 29. Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does Minnesota’s PMFL program include effective mechanisms to deter, identify, and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse? |
| 30. Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (Petrofund) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has Petrofund met Minnesota’s need for petroleum storage tank leak cleanup? |
| 31. Prevailing Wage Compliance <i>This topic is related to a 2007 OLA program evaluation.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has DLI enforced prevailing wage laws for projects funded through state bonds? • To what extent have select state agencies paid prevailing wages as required by state law? |
| 32. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Oversight of Electric Utilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has PUC fulfilled its responsibilities related to statutory renewable energy objectives? |
| 33. PUC Oversight of Smart Meter Installations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has PUC ensured that utilities follow service and opt-out requirements in their installation and maintenance of smart or advanced meters? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND JUDICIARY

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| <p>34. Community Crime Intervention and Prevention (CCIP) Grant Program</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has CCIP contributed to a reduction of crime, delinquency, and disorder in the communities in which the grant was awarded? • How well has the Department of Public Safety managed CCIP? |
| <p>35. Court of Administrative Hearings: Special Education Hearings</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do administrative law judges make supported, consistent decisions in special education hearings? What systemic differences, if any, exist between decisions in which the complainants retain council or represents themselves? |
| <p>36. Department of Public Safety (DPS) NextGen 911 System</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has DPS been managing the transition from the current state 911 system to NextGen 911? • To what extent has the current state 911 system been maintained and fully operational during this transition? |
| <p>37. DPS Private Detective and Protective Agents Board</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the board ensured investigative and security staff meet the requirements for their licenses? • To what extent has the board reviewed and acted on disciplinary matters and complaints in a timely and consistent way? |
| <p>38. Family Court Custody Decisions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is parenting time split between parents, on average, in family court custody proceedings? • How often are cases contested? |
| <p>39. Firefighter and Peace Officer Duty Disability Benefits</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the benefits program meet the needs of the individuals it serves? • How does the provision of these benefits affect public employers? • What impact, if any, has the Public Safety Officer Benefit Program had on the provision of benefits and public employers’ financial obligations? |

EDUCATION

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| <p>40. Minnesota State Campuses</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs and benefits of maintaining the current number of campuses for Minnesota State institutions? • How would targeted campus closures impact Minnesota State institutions? |
| <p>41. Nonpublic Pupil Aids Program (NPAP)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impact does NPAP have on state education resources? • What impact does NPAP have on students? |
| <p>42. Office of Higher Education (OHE) Oversight of Post-Secondary Educational Institutions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do OHE’s (1) registration process for private and out-of-state public post-secondary schools, and (2) licensing process for private careers schools, protect students? • To what extent are OHE’s investigations of student complaints timely and thorough? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>43. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the financial impact of PSEO on school districts, post-secondary institutions, and the overall state budget? • To what extent have participating entities complied with applicable legal requirements for PSEO? • To what extent do all students have equitable access to PSEO? • How well does PSEO meet the needs of students? |
| <p>44. Special Education Funding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have federal and state special education funding covered the cost of special education services in districts across Minnesota? • How, if at all, have gaps in funding varied across districts? What factors have contributed to any variance? |
| <p>45. Special Education Funding in Charter Schools</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have state and federal funding for special education been used by charter schools? • To what extent have state and federal funds covered necessary special education expenses? How have charter schools managed any gaps? |

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND AGRICULTURE

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| <p>46. Aggregate Production Tax</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is revenue from the aggregate tax program being distributed and used? To what extent have these uses aligned with the statutory purpose of the program? • How well have counties managed the aggregate tax program? |
| <p>47. Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has AFREC managed the grant process for programs funded through fertilizer fees? • To what extent have AFREC-funded grants met their intended purpose? |
| <p>48. Clean Water Fund (CWF)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have CWF expenditures followed requirements? • How well have Clean Drinking Water Priorities addressed concerns across the state? |
| <p>49. Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have ENRTF funds been used properly? • To what extent have reporting requirements related to ENRTF been met? • How well does ENRTF regulation protect funds from potential fraud or abuse? |
| <p>50. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Air Quality Permitting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does MPCA monitor air quality around permitted entities? • To what extent has MPCA been timely in addressing issues with air quality? • To what extent has MPCA notified permitted entities and surrounding residents about air quality issues in an appropriate and timely manner? |
| <p>51. MPCA Dairy Farm Regulation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does MPCA apply environmental regulations consistently across all dairy farms? How do regulations impact different types of dairy farms? • To what extent have environmental regulations on dairy farms achieved their intended purposes? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>52. MPCA Feedlot Permitting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors affect the timeliness with which MPCA processes feedlot permits? • How does MPCA permit processing compare to processes in other states? |
| <p>53. MPCA Water Infrastructure Funds and Programs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are water projects funded in rural areas effective and cost efficient? |
| <p>54. Sustainable Building Guidelines Energy Requirements</p> <p><i>This topic is related to a 2023 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the state ensure that projects subject to the sustainable building guidelines consistently comply with energy efficiency requirements? • To what extent have buildings subject to the guidelines achieved energy efficiency goals in a cost-effective manner? |
| <p>55. Watershed Districts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are watershed districts vulnerable to fraud or abuse? • How well have Watershed District Boards managed districts' operations? |
| <p>GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS</p> | |
| <p>56. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in the Public Sector</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do civil servants use AI to perform their job roles? • How, if all, could using AI improve civil servants' performance and productivity? |
| <p>57. Classification of State Employees</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are positions with similar minimum qualifications and duties classified the same across state government? • To what extent are there differences in classification based on type of populations or entities served? |
| <p>58. Contractor Fraud</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have recent incidences of organizational fraud been perpetrated by third party contractors? What role, if any, have public sector employees played in these fraud incidences? • How does the incidence of fraud compare in programs operated by third party contractors and state agency staff? • To what extent have public sector employees been the focus of credible allegations of fraud? |
| <p>59. Cybersecurity Incident Reporting (CIR)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impact, if any, has CIR had on coordinated responses to statewide cyber threat prevention, detection, and response? |
| <p>60. Executive Agency Return to Office (RTO) Mandate</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs and benefits associated with executive agency staff returning to work in centralized offices, as compared to the costs and benefits of telework arrangements? |
| <p>61. Federal Government Funding Impact on State Operations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have changes in federal funding impacted state government operations? |
| <p>62. Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Financial Oversight</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has MMB developed appropriate controls for payments made through SWIFT? • How well has MMB protected state funds from bad actors? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| 63. Operation Metro Surge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did Operation Metro Surge impact state agency operations? |
| 64. Use of Nondisclosure Agreements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often have state agencies used nondisclosure agreements and what trends, if any, exist in their use? • To what extent is the use of nondisclosure agreements regulated by state law or agency policies? How well have agencies complied with any existing laws or policies? |
| 65. Whistleblower Protections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does Minnesota law protect whistleblowers from retaliation? • To what extent do executive branch agencies follow whistleblower protections laws? |
| HEALTH | |
| 66. Mental Health Crisis Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well do Minnesota’s crisis response organizations—such as the Crisis Lifeline (988), Mobile Crisis Mental Health Services, and hospitals—coordinate to respond to mental health crises? • To what extent are services equally available throughout the state? • How well do these services work for the individuals they are intended to serve? |
| 67. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Mortuary Science Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does MDH manage the licensing process for funeral establishments and morticians? • To what extent does MDH’s complaint handling approach reflect best practices? • How consistently has MDHS applied disciplinary actions to establishments? |
| 68. Opioid Epidemic Response Spending (OERS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has opioid settlement money been spent on evidence-based practices? How, if at all, has the impact of this spending been measured? • To what extent has the OERS dashboard impacted transparency of opioid settlement spending? |
| HUMAN SERVICES | |
| 69. Adult Day Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the Department of Human Services (DHS) overseen adult day services? • To what extent does the licensing process ensure that adult day services providers have appropriate programming and services? |
| 70. Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS complied with requirements when making AMHI grants? • How well have Minnesota Management and Budget and DHS documented adult mental health initiative services administered by county boards? • How well has DHS managed waivers and exemptions for the programs? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>71. African American Family Preservation Act (AAFPA)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have counties and courts complied with the AAFPA? • How well has DHS overseen the implementation of AAFPA? |
| <p>72. Certified Peer Specialist Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well have these services supported the development of skills needed for recovery? • How well has DHS managed the process of approving peer services providers? |
| <p>73. Child Foster Care</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do child protection agencies evaluate the quality of foster care placements? To what extent do they provide oversight of placements? • What steps do agencies take to ensure that children in foster care settings are not abused or victimized, and how effective are these steps? |
| <p>74. Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) Consultation Providers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective are CFSS consultation providers in supporting CFSS clients? To what extent do their services duplicate those of other providers, such as assessors? • How well does DHS oversee CFSS consultation providers’ work? |
| <p>75. Department of Human Services (DHS) Adult Foster Care Licensing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are requirements for Adult Foster Care reasonable and contribute to safe environments for residents and staff? • How well does DHS ensure that licensed facilities follow requirements? |
| <p>76. DHS and County Collaboration on Service Approvals and Provision <i>This topic is related to a 2024 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well do DHS and county social services agencies coordinate to process requests for social services determinations and services? • To what extent are requests for social services determinations and services processed consistently across counties? |
| <p>77. DHS Budget Forecasts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has DHS forecast its budget in recent years? If discrepancies exist, what are the reasons for them? |
| <p>78. DHS HIV Supports Division</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have Ryan White funds been spent in accordance with legal requirements? • How well have HIV supports spending decisions aligned with community needs? |
| <p>79. DHS Oversight of Disability Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS ensured that applications for disability services are processed in a timely manner? • How well has DHS supported individuals’ ability to live in the least restrictive environment? |
| <p>80. DHS Oversight of Disability Services Providers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS processed provider applications in a timely way? • To what extent has DHS ensured that providers meet licensing requirements? • How well do Minnesota’s disability services licensing requirements protect the health and safety of individuals who rely on those services? |
| <p>81. DHS Oversight of Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS established appropriate timelines and other guidelines for EAA? • How well has DHS overseen implementation of EAA? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>82. DHS Oversight of Grants to Nonprofit Organizations</p> <p><i>This topic is related to a 2023 OLA program evaluation and a forthcoming 2027 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does DHS follow state requirements and best practices when awarding and administering grants to nonprofit organizations? • How effectively and consistently does DHS detect, investigate, and respond to suspected fraud? • To what extent has DHS recovered misspent funds, implemented corrective actions, and strengthened safeguards to prevent misuse of funds? |
| <p>83. DHS Oversight of Medicaid Services Providers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the costs and administrative burden of overseeing private Medicaid services providers compare to the costs and administrative burden of directly providing services? |
| <p>84. DHS State Medical Review Team (SMRT)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How timely are SMRT determinations? What impact, if any, do delays in determinations have on individuals requesting services? |
| <p>85. DHS System Modernization</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS completed its system modernization project? • How effectively has DHS spent legislative appropriations for system modernization? |
| <p>86. Durable Medical Goods Purchasing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS provided clear, comprehensive guidance on durable medical goods coverage? • To what extent have approved durable medical goods been purchased or reimbursed in accordance with applicable requirements? |
| <p>87. Integrated Community Supports (ICS) Billing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has DHS provided clear, correct guidance to ICS providers on how to bill for services? • To what extent has DHS ensured that billing is correct? |
| <p>88. Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has DHS responded to safety and maltreatment complaints at IRTS providers? • To what extent does DHS ensure IRTS providers meet all safety requirements? |
| <p>89. Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) Efficacy</p> <p><i>This topic is related to a 2011 OLA program evaluation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do MSOP standards of treatment and care align with best practices, professional standards, and similar programs? • To what extent has MSOP evaluated the effectiveness of the treatment and care provided to clients? • How, if at all, do external factors (facilities, resources, etc.) affect the treatment and care provided to MSOP clients? • How well has MSOP leadership managed the treatment program, documentation, staffing, and finances? |
| <p>90. Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have RCOs complied with requirements related to quality of service? • To what extent has DHS provided appropriate and effective oversight of RCOs? |
| <p>91. School-Linked Behavioral Health (SLBH) Grants</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective have SLBH grants been in supporting early identification and intervention for students with mental health needs? • To what extent has SLBH provided cost-effective services? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| TRANSPORTATION | |
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| 92. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has MnDOT ensured that eligible projects use a complete street approach? |
| 93. SouthWest Transit Shuttle Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has SouthWest Transit’s Event Shuttles program complied with federal and state requirements? |
| OTHER | |
| 94. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent have Arts and Cultural Heritage funds been used and achieved outcomes as intended? How well have state agencies overseen the distribution and use of Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds? |
| 95. Attorney General’s Office (AGO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well has AGO responded to suspected fraud in publicly funded programs? To what extent has AGO used its resources effectively? How well has AGO coordinated with other entities in completing its duties? |
| 96. Corporate Concentration in Minnesota | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has corporate concentration occurred in Minnesota? What impact has any concentration had on small businesses, farmers, and consumers? To what extent are Minnesota’s antitrust and trade practices laws an effective deterrent to anti-competitive market activity? How well does state government regulate algorithmic and AI price and wage setting? To what extent has state government investigated and enforced antitrust, trade practice, and other relevant laws? How well-equipped is state government to enforce compliance? |
| 97. Meals on Wheels for Veterans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well has the Meals on Wheels expansion for veterans served veterans struggling with food insecurity and social isolation? |
| 98. Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Housing Stability Initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent do programs administered by MDVA meet the needs of veterans experiencing housing instability? |
| 99. Minnesota Housing Development Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s (Minnesota Housing’s) authority to invest legislative appropriations impacted its investment and expenditure decisions? To what extent has Minnesota Housing disbursed investment earnings from legislative appropriations to programs for which the agency received the original appropriations? How has the agency spent funds it has not disbursed to intended programs? How does the amount Minnesota Housing has retained from appropriations investments compare to agency costs for operating the programs for which the agency received appropriations? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>100. Minnesota Housing Tax Credit</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the credit achieved its purpose? • To what extent is the credit vulnerable to misuse by housing developers and funders? |
| <p>101. Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has OCM managed the licensing process for cannabis and hemp businesses? • How well has OCM managed the process for approving products for sale? • To what extent has OCM responded to complaints in a timely and consistent manner? |
| <p>102. Office of the State Archeologist (OSA) <i>This topic is related to a 2022 OLA special review.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has OSA managed the archeologist licensing process? • To what extent has the licensing process been transparent, timely, and compliant with applicable requirements? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

OLA PROGRAM EVALUATIONS, 2021–2007

Evaluations **in bold** are also listed above in the *Requested Follow-Up Evaluations* section.

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| 2021 | |
| <p>1. <i>Board of Cosmetology Licensing</i> 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of licenses does the Board of Cosmetology issue and how are those licenses structured? • To what extent does Minnesota’s licensing structure minimize unnecessary barriers to licensure for practitioners and establishments, while still protecting public health and safety? • What processes does the board use to issue licenses? To what extent does the Board of Cosmetology communicate with licensees about licensing issues in a clear and timely manner? |
| <p>2. <i>Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color (CUGMEC) Grant Program</i> 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the CUGMEC grant program had an impact on the racial and ethnic diversity of Minnesota’s teacher workforce? • How well has the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) administered the CUGMEC grant program? |
| <p>3. <i>Driver Examination Stations</i> 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are driver exam stations adequately staffed and available to drivers across the state? • How has the Department of Public Safety spent the appropriations it received to improve the scheduling of Class D road tests, and how efficient and accessible is DVS’s current system for scheduling Class D road tests? • What have been the effects of strategies DVS has implemented to address the testing backlog |
| <p>4. <i>MnDOT Workforce and Contracting Goals</i> 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has MnDOT performed with respect to Minnesota’s workforce participation goals for state-funded construction projects? • For state-funded contracts, how well has MnDOT performed with respect to its goals and requirements for contracting with businesses owned by women, people of color, people with a physical disability, and veterans? |
| 2020 | |
| <p>5. <i>Compensatory Education Revenue</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is compensatory education revenue, how is the revenue calculated, and how does the revenue vary by schools and over time? • To what extent do schools use the revenue for its designated purpose? • How and to what extent does Minnesota assess the effectiveness of programs and services funded with compensatory education revenue? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>6. <i>DHS Oversight of Personal Care Assistance</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Department of Human Services (DHS) promoted consistency and provided effective guidance for completing assessments to determine an individual’s need for personal care assistance (PCA)? • To what extent has DHS complied with requirements related to PCA agency and personal care assistant enrollment? • What procedures has DHS established for identifying fraud and abuse in PCA, and what were the results of those efforts? |
| <p>7. <i>Minnesota Department of Human Rights: Complaint Resolution Process</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Human Rights established policies and procedures for investigating and resolving cases of alleged discrimination? • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Human Rights investigated alleged discrimination cases in a timely and consistent manner? |
| <p>8. <i>Pesticide Regulation</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the Minnesota Department of Agriculture meet federal and state requirements for the registration of pesticide products, as well as the licensing and permitting of pesticide applicators, dealers, and facilities? • To what extent does the Minnesota Department of Agriculture enforce pesticide regulations? • To what extent does the Minnesota Department of Agriculture have reasonable processes for monitoring the use and environmental effects of the state’s pesticide-regulation activities? • How well is the state following the recommendations in the Office of the Legislative Auditor’s 2006 <i>Pesticide Regulation</i> report, including the recommendation to improve access to waste-pesticide disposal across the state? |
| <p>9. <i>Public Utilities Commission’s Public Participation Processes</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the Public Utilities Commission’s (PUC’s) processes and rules for public participation? • To what extent do PUC’s structure, processes, and rules facilitate public participation? • To what extent does PUC enforce its rules for public participation appropriately and consistently? |
| <p>10. <i>Safety in State Correctional Facilities</i> 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How safe are Minnesota’s prisons, both for the staff who work there and the offenders who live there? • To what extent has the Department of Corrections (DOC) taken reasonable steps to maintain and improve safety in state prisons? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| 2019 | |
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| <p>11. <i>Debt Service Equalization for School Facilities</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Debt Service Equalization program, how do the program’s formulas work, and how have the state and local shares of revenue varied over time? • To what degree does Debt Service Equalization reduce the differences between property-wealthy and property-poor school districts, and what have been the trends? • How does the Debt Service Equalization program compare with certain other programs for funding facilities? • What is the Minnesota Department of Education’s role in Debt Service Equalization? |
| <p>12. <i>Economic Development and Housing Challenge Program</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the Economic Development and Housing Challenge program meet its purpose? • How well did the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) administer the program? |
| <p>13. <i>Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Administration</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the Minnesota State Arts Board comply with state grant-making policies? • What approaches do the Arts Board and regional arts councils use to ensure appropriate uses of state grant funds, and how effective are the approaches? • To what extent does the Arts Board measure the outcomes of the grants it makes, including grants to regional arts councils? |
| <p>14. <i>MnDOT Measures of Financial Effectiveness</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does MnDOT use financial effectiveness as a criterion when making decisions about transportation spending? • When MnDOT does assess financial effectiveness, how does it do so? Does the department consider all appropriate costs and benefits? |
| <p>15. <i>Office of Minnesota Information Technology Services (MNIT)</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the consolidation of IT services under MNIT resulted in clear, effective organization and oversight of executive branch IT services? • How well has MNIT met the IT needs of the agencies, boards, and other executive branch entities that rely on its services? • To what extent is the executive branch’s process of budgeting for and funding IT services transparent and consistently applied? |
| <p>16. <i>Public Facilities Authority: Wastewater Infrastructure Programs</i> 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the Public Facilities Authority administer the grants and loans that it awards for wastewater infrastructure improvements? • What are the outcomes of the Public Facilities Authority’s spending on wastewater infrastructure improvements, and to what extent does the state measure these outcomes? • How do the state resources available for wastewater infrastructure improvements compare with the needs identified by local governments? • How do other states finance wastewater infrastructure? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| 2018 | |
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| <p>17. <i>Board of Animal Health’s Oversight of Deer and Elk Farms</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the Board of Animal Health carried out its duties related to the oversight of deer and elk farms? • How has the Board of Animal Health responded to the recent outbreak of chronic wasting disease, and how effective have these efforts been? • To what extent have the Board of Animal Health and the Department of Natural Resources successfully coordinated their efforts to contain the spread of chronic wasting disease? |
| <p>18. <i>Early Childhood Programs</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Minnesota’s early childhood programs, who uses them, and what do they cost? • To the extent that children attend more than one key early childhood program, how much do services duplicate or augment each other? • To what extent do the responsible state agencies determine whether key early childhood programs achieve their objectives? • How well do the various entities involved with early childhood programs collaborate and coordinate their efforts? |
| <p>19. <i>Guardian ad Litem Program</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have guardians ad litem fulfilled their role as required by state law? • To what extent has the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Board ensured the effective operation of the GAL Program? • To what extent has the GAL Board established appropriate minimum qualifications, screening procedures, and training requirements for guardians ad litem? • To what extent are the GAL Program’s policies and procedures for resolving complaints against guardians ad litem transparent, comprehensive, and consistently applied? |
| <p>20. <i>Minnesota Investment Fund</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the impacts of the Minnesota Investment Fund, particularly on jobs and wages? • To what extent have local governments used local revolving loan funds seeded with Minnesota Investment Fund loan repayments, and for what purpose? • How well does the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) administer the Minnesota Investment Fund? Does DEED have a clear basis for making project awards and determining whether loans need to be repaid? |
| <p>21. <i>Office of Health Facility Complaints</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the Office of Health Facility Complaints (OHFC) effectively process and investigate allegations? • How often does OHFC impose sanctions or require providers to develop corrective action plans, and what types of sanctions are imposed? • Does OHFC maintain appropriate levels of communication with complainants and other stakeholders? To what extent are OHFC’s processes, reports, and website transparent and accessible? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>22. <i>Voter Registration</i> 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of voter registration does Minnesota allow? How do voter registration options differ? • How well does Minnesota’s statewide voter registration database ensure the accuracy of Minnesota’s voter rosters? Does the Office of the Secretary of State have adequate authority to oversee how local governments use the database? • What voter registration services did the Office of the Secretary of State and state agencies provide in 2016? What barriers to registration might eligible voters experience? • How do election day registration and the oath of eligibility provide access to voting? What concerns do they raise about the integrity of Minnesota’s elections? |
| <p>2017</p> | |
| <p>23. <i>Clean Water Fund Outcomes</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are systems in place to adequately measure outcomes of Clean Water Fund spending? What are the outcomes of this spending? • How do the Legislature, the Clean Water Council, and state agencies distribute Clean Water Fund dollars? • How transparent are the processes used to distribute Clean Water Fund dollars? • To what extent does the distribution of Clean Water Fund dollars align with constitutional and other legal requirements? |
| <p>24. <i>Home- and Community-Based Services: Financial Oversight</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) are provided to adult MA recipients with disabilities and the elderly, and in what settings are they delivered? • How much does the state spend, in terms of MA, to provide HCBS, what types of organizations provide HCBS, and what do the different types of HCBS cost? • To what extent has the Department of Human Services (DHS) developed the necessary tools to provide financial oversight of HCBS providers? |
| <p>25. <i>Minnesota Research Tax Credit</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Minnesota’s research tax credit, and who receives it? • What are the research tax credit’s objectives, and how effectively has Minnesota’s tax credit achieved them? • How does Minnesota’s tax credit compare with similar credits in other states? • How well does Minnesota’s Department of Revenue oversee the credit? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>26. <i>Minnesota State High School League</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the League appropriately exercised its rulemaking authority regarding student eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities? Are there sufficient opportunities for public input in its bylaws, policies, procedures, and administrative activities? • To what extent have League bylaws, policies, and procedures been appropriately applied in student transfer eligibility decisions? Do appeals processes provide adequate recourse for individuals affected by League decisions? • Are changes needed to make the League more accountable to the Legislature, students, parents, member schools, and the public? |
| <p>27. <i>Perpich Center for Arts Education</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the Perpich Center been properly governed and managed, and has its leadership provided sufficient direction to the agency? • How well has the Perpich Center managed its schools, including the transition of Crosswinds School to state control? • To what extent has the Perpich Center fulfilled statutory requirements related to statewide outreach in arts education, and is the agency adequately supporting arts education throughout the state? |
| <p>28. <i>Standardized Student Testing</i> 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) manage Minnesota’s required standardized tests? How effectively has it overseen the work of its testing vendors? • How does state-mandated standardized testing affect students and schools? • How useful are state test results to policy makers, school districts, schools, teachers, and students? |
| <p>2016</p> | |
| <p>29. <i>Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of projects does AURI undertake and what services does the institute provide? • How well has the institute performed in recent years? How successful has AURI been in obtaining funding from nonstate sources? • How does AURI make decisions about projects and set priorities? Does it seek input from a broad range of agricultural interests? • How does AURI’s board of directors appoint its members? Is the board able to effectively govern the institute? |
| <p>30. <i>Department of Natural Resources: Deer Population Management</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much does the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spend on deer population management? How are these activities funded? • How does DNR estimate and monitor Minnesota’s deer population? How do these methods compare with recommended practices? • How does DNR establish the state’s deer population goals and hunting permit strategies? To what extent do DNR’s deer population goals reflect various stakeholders’ interests? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>31. <i>Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the IRRRB’s mission and legal authority, and how is the agency organized? What are the board’s structure and authority, and how have they changed over time? • How effective has IRRRB been in economic development, trade, and tourism promotion? • How does IRRRB measure its performance? • Does IRRRB follow fair and transparent practices when awarding grants or loans? |
| <p>32. <i>Mental Health Services in County Jails</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do state-operated or community-based mental health services provide viable placement options when law enforcement officials take individuals with mental illness into custody? • Do jails provide legally required mental health services and follow recommended practices in the correctional field? • How timely are civil commitments and competency determinations for people with mental illnesses who are facing criminal charges? • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) complied with the law requiring placement of certain jailed individuals in DHS facilities within 48 hours? What have been the consequences of this law? |
| <p>33. <i>Minnesota Department of Health Oversight of HMO Complaint Resolution</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How adequately does the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) oversee HMOs’ internal complaint resolution processes? • Does MDH have sufficient authority to ensure that HMOs comply with state and federal requirements? • How thoroughly does MDH investigate complaints filed with the department? • To what extent does the department oversee the independent external review process specifically available to HMO enrollees? |
| <p>34. <i>Minnesota Teacher Licensure</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do the Board of Teaching and the Minnesota Department of Education manage licensing, licensure appeals, and special permission requests in a transparent and consistent manner? • What have been the results of legislative changes regarding teacher licensure, and what progress have the Board of Teaching and Minnesota Department of Education made in implementing these changes? • To what extent do the Board of Teaching’s activities overlap with those of the Minnesota Department of Education, and how do they coordinate efforts? |
| <p>35. <i>MnDOT Highway Project Selection</i> 2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) select the projects it constructs on state highways? • How transparent is MnDOT’s process for selecting highway projects? Who makes decisions and what criteria are used? • How do projects selected through alternative processes, such as through the Corridors of Commerce program, compare with the projects chosen through MnDOT’s standard project selection process? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| 2015 | |
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| <p>36. <i>Managed Care Organizations' Administrative Expenses</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much do managed care organizations spend to administer Minnesota's publicly funded health care programs, and for what purposes? • Do the administrative expenses reported by managed care organizations comply with state and federal laws? Are administrative expenses reported consistently? • Does DHS adequately review and control administrative costs when developing payment rates for managed care organizations? Does the state pay for unreasonable or unnecessary administrative costs for managed care? |
| <p>37. <i>Mineral Taxation</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Minnesota's mineral taxes and royalties, and how has this changed over time? • How are revenues from mineral taxes and royalties distributed? How has the tax distribution changed over time? • How effectively and transparently are mineral taxes administered and distributed? To what extent are mechanisms in place to ensure oversight? • What impacts do the mineral tax system and its distribution have on the state and Iron Range local governments? |
| <p>38. <i>Minnesota Board of Nursing: Complaint Resolution Process</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Minnesota Board of Nursing's process for resolving complaints against nurses, and does it adequately protect the public and nurses? • How well does the board review and resolve complaints? • Does the Health Professionals Services Program's (HPSP's) work and organizational structure conflict with the board's mission? To what extent does the program's monitoring of nurses facilitate nurses' rehabilitation while protecting the public? |
| <p>39. <i>Minnesota Film and TV Board</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well has the Minnesota Film and TV Board managed the state grants that fund its operations and the film production jobs program? Do board activities reflect state expectations? • How does Minnesota's film production incentive compare with those in other states? To what extent does the program's design support the benefits states seek by offering incentives? • What is the history of state support for the film industry in Minnesota? To what extent has the support helped or hindered the effectiveness of the board and the film production jobs program? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>40. <i>Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange (MNsure)</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has Minnesota’s state-based health insurance exchange helped consumers make informed choices? • What are the characteristics of MNsure enrollees? Has the exchange reduced the number of Minnesotans who lack insurance? • Was the exchange adequately planned and implemented? Has MNsure provided sufficient outreach, marketing, and applicant assistance? What has contributed to MNsure’s technical and operational problems? • Has MNsure’s governing board exercised sufficient oversight of the exchange’s operations? |
| <p>41. <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has funding for recycling changed over time, and how has this money been used? • What are the recycling outcomes in other states, and how does Minnesota compare? • To what extent has Minnesota established effective recycling policies and practices? |
| <p>42. <i>State Protections for Meatpacking Workers</i> 2015</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What conditions do meatpacking workers encounter on the job? • How effective are the Department of Labor and Industry’s efforts to protect the rights and safety of meatpacking workers? • To what extent are Minnesota’s laws, particularly the Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights, sufficient to protect workers? |
| <p>2014</p> | |
| <p>43. <i>Agricultural Commodity Councils</i> 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much money have commodity councils collected through the agricultural commodity checkoff program? How have they spent this money? • To what extent do the commodity councils measure their effectiveness? How effective have the councils been in meeting their goals? • To what extent does the Minnesota Department of Agriculture oversee the councils and their use of checkoff-fee revenue? How accountable are the councils to the state and to commodity producers? |
| <p>44. <i>Councils on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Black Minnesotans, Chicano/Latino People, and Indian Affairs</i> 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the appointment process for council members contributed toward effective councils that operate in a manner consistent with state laws? • To what extent have CAPM, COBM, CLAC, and MIAC fulfilled their statutory responsibilities? • How effectively have the four councils served their respective constituents? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>45. <i>DNR Forest Management</i> 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Forestry Division organized and funded? Do funding sources reflect the diverse interests for which the division manages forest land? To what extent do timber sales finance Forestry Division activities? • How have planning, certification, and other strategies contributed to the division’s ability to sell timber while managing for multiple uses and sustained yield? What have been the effects of these strategies? • What is the state’s timber sales process? How do the division’s timber revenues and expenditures compare with those of other forest landowners in Minnesota? |
| <p>46. <i>Health Services in State Correctional Facilities</i> 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the nature and extent of the health services provided to offenders in Minnesota state correctional facilities? • To what extent do these health services comply with professional standards? • Is there adequate oversight of the Department of Correction’s (DOC’s) health services? What have external and internal reviews indicated about the adequacy of health services in Minnesota prisons? • Has DOC taken sufficient steps to manage health services and related costs? |
| <p>47. <i>MnDOT Selection of Pavement Surface for Road Rehabilitation</i> 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What methods does MnDOT use to determine the preferred pavement type for road rehabilitation projects? • How reasonable are MnDOT’s methods for selecting pavement type? To what extent have MnDOT districts around the state followed those methods in their road projects? • To what extent do MnDOT’s methods reflect recommended practices? |
| <p>2013</p> | |
| <p>48. <i>Conservation Easements</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is land selected for conservation easements, and how is the price paid for easements determined? • What are the public benefits of conservation easements, and what benefits accrue to the landowners whose properties have conservation easements? • How well do state agencies and nonprofit organizations that use state money to purchase easements monitor and enforce conservation easement requirements? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>49. <i>Law Enforcement’s Use of State Databases</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information do the driver’s license database and the Comprehensive Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS) contain? How do law enforcement professionals use these databases, and is their use consistent with the law? • To what extent does the Department of Public Safety (DPS) ensure that only authorized law enforcement professionals access driver’s license data and CIBRS, and only for authorized purposes? • How effective are procedures used by DPS to audit use of these databases? What have investigations of possible misuse found, and what have been the consequences for inappropriate use? • What mechanisms has the Legislature used to balance policy issues related to law enforcement data? |
| <p>50. <i>Medical Assistance Payment Rates for Dental Services</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Minnesota’s Medical Assistance program have reasonable payment rates for dentists? How have these rates changed, how do they compare with other states, and how do reimbursement practices for dentists compare with those for other health care professionals? • To what extent do Minnesota dentists participate in Medical Assistance? To what extent do they serve Medical Assistance clients and how has this changed during recent years? • What has been the impact of payment rates and supplemental payments on dentist participation in Medical Assistance? What has been the impact of Minnesota’s payment policies on Medical Assistance client access to dental services? |
| <p>51. <i>MnDOT Noise Barriers</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What policy choices has MnDOT made regarding noise barriers on federal projects, and how do these choices compare to those made by other states? • How does MnDOT prioritize state-funded noise barrier projects on existing highways? Does MnDOT’s approach unduly favor some projects over others? • Do MnDOT’s noise barrier maintenance activities adequately address needed repairs and replacement? |
| <p>52. <i>Special Education</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the characteristics of students receiving special education, and how have they changed over time? • What are the costs of special education, and what factors drive those costs? • To what extent do Minnesota’s requirements for special education exceed federal requirements, and what are the practical effects of certain requirements specific to Minnesota? |
| <p>53. <i>State Employee Union Fair Share Fee Calculations</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the fair share fee calculated for the various state employee unions? • To what extent do state employee unions comply with fair share fee calculation and notification requirements? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>54. <i>State-Operated Human Services</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What residential and inpatient services does the Department of Human Services (DHS) directly provide? How do clients enter these programs, how long do they remain, and have there been appropriate, timely discharges to other settings? • To what extent are there viable nonstate alternatives to DHS-run facilities? Should DHS continue directly providing the services it now provides? • Has DHS effectively managed the services it directly provides? |
| <p>55. <i>Sustainable Forest Incentive Program</i> 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the history of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA)? What was it designed to achieve, and how has the program changed over time? How many landowners participate in SFIA, and how many acres are enrolled? • To what extent do SFIA payments offset property taxes on enrolled land? • Do the design and implementation of the sustainable forest incentive program provide assurance that participants are complying with program requirements? |
| <p>2012</p> | |
| <p>56. <i>Child Protection Screening</i> 2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do Minnesota’s child protection agencies have consistent, reasonable practices for screening referrals of possible child maltreatment? • What is the variation in agencies’ rates of “screening in” referrals for a child protection response, and what might explain the variation? • Do state laws provide sufficient guidance regarding screening of maltreatment referrals? Has the Department of Human Services provided sufficient oversight of screening practices? |
| <p>57. <i>Consolidation of Local Governments</i> 2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have Minnesota townships, cities, and counties pursued consolidation? How has consolidation affected the costs and services of merged jurisdictions? • What factors facilitate or inhibit consolidation? Should the state create incentives for consolidation? If so, what approach should the state use? • To what extent have local governments used cooperative agreements to streamline services and reduce costs? |
| <p>58. <i>Fiscal Notes</i> 2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have fiscal notes provided legislators with timely and credible information? How have these notes been used in the state’s budget process? • How does Minnesota’s approach to estimating the fiscal impact of bills compare with the approaches of other states? • How could Minnesota’s fiscal note process be improved? Is there a need to change the content of fiscal notes, or the way fiscal notes are developed, overseen, or used? |
| <p>59. <i>Helping Communities Recover from Natural Disasters</i> 2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the state’s approach to disaster recovery? How is it funded? • Is the state’s approach cost-effective? Does it result in timely aid? • How well are the state’s recovery efforts integrated with insurance and nonprofit agencies involved in disaster recovery? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>60. <i>Preventive Maintenance for University of Minnesota Buildings</i> 2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many and what types of buildings make up the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities campus, and what is their general condition? • How well does the University conduct preventive maintenance on the Twin Cities campus? Do its preventive maintenance activities follow best practices? • How is preventive maintenance on the Twin Cities campus organized and funded? How is preventive maintenance funding related to overall building needs on the Twin Cities campus? • How does the University’s preventive maintenance program on the Twin Cities campus compare with those of peer institutions? |
| <p>2011</p> | |
| <p>61. <i>Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the population of civilly committed sex offenders grown in Minnesota? How does the size of Minnesota’s population compare with those in other states? • What accounts for the high costs of civil commitment? How does the average cost of civil commitment in Minnesota compare with similar facilities in other states and with other public facilities in Minnesota? • Is Minnesota committing the most dangerous sex offenders? Are commitment decisions being made in a consistent manner throughout the state? • Is the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) providing appropriate treatment to civilly committed sex offenders? Why have there been no discharges from MSOP facilities? • Could some of the civilly committed sex offenders be treated in the community at a lower cost, while still providing significant safeguards for the public? |
| <p>62. <i>Environmental Review and Permitting</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key elements in the environmental review and permitting processes? • How timely are the processes for undergoing environmental reviews and obtaining permits? • How well does the environmental review process meet its objectives? |
| <p>63. <i>Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is authority for governance, planning, management, operations, and funding of transit systems in the Twin Cities region distributed among state and local governments? • To what extent do the responsibilities of transit agencies in the region overlap, and is their work adequately coordinated? • To what extent are the region’s efforts to provide bus service and develop transit corridors adequately coordinated? To what extent does funding for transit corridors adequately balance capital and operating funding needs? • How does transit in the Twin Cities region compare with other regions in the country, and how well do transit providers within the Twin Cities region perform? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>64. <i>K-12 Online Learning</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What online programs and courses are available to students in kindergarten through grade 12, and how are they offered? • What types of students enroll in online learning programs and courses? Why do they enroll in online programs, and are their expectations fulfilled? • To what extent does the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) ensure that online programs provide high quality and adequately rigorous courses? What is known about the effectiveness of online learning? |
| <p>65. <i>Medical Nonemergency Transportation</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have participation in, and costs for, medical nonemergency transportation for MA recipients changed over time, and why? • Are special transportation eligibility assessments performed in a reasonable manner? To what extent have MA recipients appealed results? • Has the Department of Human Services (DHS) exercised adequate oversight of transportation services statewide? • To what extent do MA recipients receive appropriate and cost-effective nonemergency medical transportation? • How do other states provide medical nonemergency transportation to Medicaid recipients? |
| <p>66. <i>The Legacy Amendment</i> 2011</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What organizational structures and procedures have been put in place to advise the Legislature on how Legacy money should be used? How is Legacy money being allocated, to whom, and for what purposes? • What mechanisms have been put in place to ensure accountability and oversight of Legacy funds? • What key concerns remain about how the Legacy Amendment has been implemented? |
| <p>2010</p> | |
| <p>67. <i>Alternative Education Programs</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does alternative education differ from other public school choice options? • Who attends alternative education programs and for what purposes? • How have students in these programs performed, and how is performance most appropriately measured? • Is there adequate state and local oversight of alternative education programs? |
| <p>68. <i>MnSCU System Office</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system office’s spending changed over time, and what accounts for these changes? • Have MnSCU’s leaders provided clear direction for the system and monitored progress? Are there good working relationships between MnSCU’s key administrative officials and the governing board? • To what extent does the system office provide effective, efficient services? Are there opportunities for more efficiency or cost savings? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>69. <i>Natural Resource Land</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the amount of state-owned land managed by either DNR or the counties changed over the last two decades? How much natural resource land is owned by the federal government? • Has DNR adequately examined its land holdings and identified surplus land to sell or exchange? Do all of DNR’s land holdings continue to meet a public purpose? Are there opportunities to sell or exchange existing land and better meet conservation and other objectives? • Do DNR and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) adequately monitor and enforce compliance on their conservation easements? • Does DNR have adequate resources to develop and manage land it currently owns? If not, should DNR be expanding its land holdings when it cannot adequately manage the land? Has DNR provided the Legislature and Governor with sufficient information about the amount of resources needed to manage existing land holdings? • Do state payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) adequately compensate local governments for the local fiscal impacts of state land ownership? How are the various types of local governments (counties, townships, and school districts) financially affected by state land ownership? Does the distribution of PILT mandated under law make sense? |
| <p>70. <i>Public Defender System</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well are the resources of Minnesota’s public defender system being managed? • To what extent do the resources and administrative structure of the public defender system support adequate representation of clients and efficient operation of the criminal justice system? • Does Minnesota have reasonable criteria and procedures for determining eligibility, and are they applied consistently? |
| <p>71. <i>Public Libraries</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What entities oversee public libraries, and are the governance and service delivery structures effective in ensuring reasonable access to services statewide? What is the role of State Library Services in the Department of Education? • How are public libraries funded in Minnesota, and how do library revenues and expenditures vary across the state? • Have Minnesota’s systems of regional library organizations fulfilled their intended purposes? To what extent have regional systems led to greater efficiency and more services? • How do other states organize and fund public libraries? |
| <p>72. <i>Renewable Energy Development Fund</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How reasonable is the process for determining which projects will be authorized for funding from the Renewable Development Fund? What types of projects have been funded so far? • To what extent have these projects met the goal of fostering development of renewable forms of energy? To what extent have these projects provided Minnesota-specific benefits? • Has information on project outcomes been effectively communicated to the public and policy makers? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>73. <i>Workforce Programs</i> 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective are the numerous state- and federally-funded programs for assisting job seekers? • Which of the workforce programs are required to meet performance standards, and how well are the standards being met? • To what extent do funding and organizational arrangements affect the delivery, coordination, or effectiveness of workforce programs? • Do workforce programs overlap? Do the programs leave gaps in services? |
| <p>2009</p> | |
| <p>74. <i>Biofuel Policies and Programs</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do biofuels produce more energy than the fossil fuel energy consumed in their production? How much can we rely on biofuels, particularly those made from agricultural crops, to replace petroleum-based fuels used for transportation? • What are the environmental impacts of biofuels, including those on global warming, air quality, water quality and availability, and wildlife habitat? • What are the economic effects of increasing production and use of biofuels? • What purposes are served by Minnesota’s current subsidy programs for biofuel production? Could these programs be better designed to meet energy, environmental, and economic goals? |
| <p>75. <i>Capitol Complex Security</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is Minnesota’s Capitol Complex (and the people who work and visit there) vulnerable to security threats? • Does Minnesota have adequate numbers and types of Capitol Complex security staff? Are these staff adequately trained? • Should Minnesota take additional steps to prevent or respond to Capitol Complex security risks? |
| <p>76. <i>E-Verify</i> 2009</p> | <p>The evaluation focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the E-Verify process works, • Actions taken to implement the Governor’s E-Verify executive order, • The experiences of Minnesota businesses that use E-Verify, • Available data on E-Verify’s outcomes, accuracy, and capacity, and • Available information on the effectiveness of E-Verify’s rules of use that are designed to prevent discrimination. |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>77. <i>MINNCOR Industries</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of products does MINNCOR Industries produce, how many inmates does it employ, and who are its customers? • To what extent is MINNCOR profitable? How does it use its profits? • How does MINNCOR determine product lines and prices? What steps, if any, does it take to ensure that it does not compete unfairly with private businesses? Do state agencies purchasing MINNCOR products pay too much? • How well is MINNCOR organized and managed? Does the Department of Corrections exercise sufficient control over MINNCOR’s operations and finances? • How do MINNCOR’s activities compare with prison industry activities in other states? How do other states organize and manage their prison industry programs? |
| <p>78. <i>MnSCU Occupational Programs</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities’ (MnSCU’s) occupational programming respond to employers’ needs and market conditions? • How well do MnSCU colleges help students explore careers and understand job opportunities? • How successfully have graduates of MnSCU’s occupational programs found work related to their programs of study? |
| <p>79. <i>Oversight of Workers’ Compensation</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the Department of Labor and Industry ensure that employers and insurers file workers’ compensation claims and pay benefits promptly and accurately? • Does the department take appropriate action to penalize employers and insurers that do not meet program requirements? • How effective are the Department of Labor and Industry’s alternative dispute resolution efforts? |
| <p>80. <i>Personal Care Assistance</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who uses PCA, and how does its use vary around the state? Have sufficient steps been taken to ensure a consistent, sound process for assessing potential service recipients? • Has the state taken sufficient steps to prevent fraud, abuse, and other types of improper payments for PCA services? • Does the state have effective ways of ensuring the quality of PCA services and protecting recipients from harm? |
| <p>81. <i>Q Comp: Quality Compensation for Teachers</i> 2009</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do participating school districts and charter schools implement Quality Compensation (Q Comp), and what alternative compensation arrangements do they have in place? What has been the experience of districts and schools that participate in the program? • Does the Minnesota Department of Education’s (MDE’s) process for reviewing Q Comp applications comply with the law? Has the department consistently applied its application requirements? • Why do some school districts and charter schools participate in Q Comp while others do not? • To what extent does MDE oversee school districts and charter schools that participate in Q Comp? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

| 2008 | |
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| <p>82. <i>“Green Acres” and Agricultural Land Preservation Programs</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the Green Acres Program and the programs for preserving agricultural land, and what are their differences? • How much in property tax benefits do program participants receive, and how do the programs affect property taxes paid by nonparticipants? • How effective are the programs? • Who benefits from the Green Acres Program, and how appropriate are the program’s eligibility criteria? • How have the dollars raised as part of the agricultural land preservation programs been spent, and who oversees that spending? |
| <p>83. <i>Charter Schools</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What programs do charter schools offer, and what types of students do they serve? • How does charter schools’ academic performance compare with that of district schools? What factors contribute to any differences? • How well do sponsors (organizations that authorize charter schools) and the Minnesota Department of Education oversee charter schools? • To what extent have charter schools experienced financial difficulties? • To what extent has the Minnesota Department of Education implemented recommendations made in the Office of the Legislative Auditor’s 2003 report on charter school financial accountability? |
| <p>84. <i>County Veterans Service Offices</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of activities do county veterans service offices engage in, how many veterans are served, and how do services vary? How well do county offices coordinate with other state and federal offices as well as service-related organizations? • How do service offices measure their effectiveness? To what extent do they measure veterans’ satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of the services that they provide? • To what extent have the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs’ certification and grants programs been effective in increasing the availability and quality of services provided by county veterans service offices? • Are veterans service offices adequately funded and overseen? Would greater state involvement improve the availability and quality of services statewide? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>85. <i>Financial Management of Health Care Programs</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has there been progress toward the implementation of health care cost containment strategies previously identified by the Department of Human Services (DHS)? • Does the state have appropriate practices for setting payment rates, contracting for services, and monitoring quality in its health care programs for low-income Minnesotans? • Is there adequate state oversight of health plan spending for administrative activities? What are the costs for DHS and the health plans to administer health care services? • What has been Minnesota’s experience with administration of publicly funded health care programs through managed care organizations? Should Minnesota consider alternatives to its existing service delivery approaches for these programs? |
| <p>86. <i>JOBZ Program</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is the JOBZ program benefiting more economically distressed areas? • What is the economic impact of the JOBZ program in Greater Minnesota? How could the program be changed to increase its net economic benefits to Greater Minnesota? • How well has the JOBZ program been implemented? Is there effective oversight and accountability? |
| <p>87. <i>School District Student Transportation</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the recent trends in student transportation funding, contracting, and vehicle characteristics? • How well do school districts manage their student transportation needs? • Are state efforts to ensure the safety of student transportation effective? |
| <p>88. <i>State Highways and Bridges</i> 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have resources and spending for the state trunk highway system and the condition of the system’s roads and bridges changed? • What are Minnesota’s practices for inspecting bridges and culverts, and how do they compare to state and federal requirements? • What standards and criteria guide the allocation of resources to the preservation of state trunk highway roads and bridges? • How has actual trunk highway spending aligned with the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s stated priorities? |
| <p>2007</p> | |
| <p>89. <i>Follow-up Review: MinnesotaCare Eligibility Determination</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the status of actions by the Department of Human Services to implement Office of the Legislative Auditor recommendations and related legislative mandates regarding MinnesotaCare eligibility determination? • What are the results of recent Department of Human Services audits of MinnesotaCare eligibility determinations? • What is the status of the automated health care eligibility system, called “HealthMatch,” and to what extent is the system expected to improve the accuracy of eligibility decisions? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>90. <i>Human Services Administration</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well is Minnesota’s state-supervised, county-administered human services system functioning? • What are the main administrative challenges this system faces, and how could these challenges be addressed within the system’s existing structure? • Should Minnesota make structural changes to its human services system, such as increasing the use of multi-county agencies or realigning state and local responsibilities? |
| <p>91. <i>Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors determine whether a worker is an employee or independent contractor, and what are the implications of misclassifying an employee as an independent contractor? • To what extent do employers misclassify Minnesota employees? • Does Minnesota have an adequate, coordinated approach to enforcing laws and rules regarding the proper classification of workers? |
| <p>92. <i>Pensions for Volunteer Firefighters</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do pension benefits for volunteer firefighters vary across the state? Are benefits portable if firefighters move? • How do the administrative costs and investment returns of volunteer firefighter pension plans compare with those of other pension plans in the state? • How many other states provide pensions to volunteer firefighters? Do states offering pensions use a decentralized or statewide system? • Is Minnesota’s decentralized pension system for volunteer firefighters cost-efficient? Would a statewide system be more efficient and able to provide higher pension benefits? |
| <p>93. <i>Postemployment Benefits for Public Employees</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluding pensions, to what extent do Minnesota governments offer “other postemployment benefits,” and how large are the liabilities? • What is needed to control liabilities for other postemployment benefits? • What are the financial conditions of Minnesota’s statewide pension funds and the major local pension funds? • How well has Minnesota’s formula worked for increasing pension benefits after retirement? • How does Minnesota compare with other states on retiree health care and pensions? How do its pension plans compare with those in the private sector? |
| <p>94. <i>Prevailing Wages</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Department of Labor and Industry use reasonable methods to survey contractors and unions about construction wages and benefits? • Are reasonable methods used to set prevailing wage rates? • How well do state agencies enforce the state’s prevailing wage law? • What evidence do existing studies provide about the impact of prevailing wage laws on government costs and revenues and the broader economy? |

Evaluation Topic Suggestions for 2026–2027 (continued)

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| <p>95. <i>State Grants to Nonprofit Organizations</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does Minnesota state government use nonprofit organizations to deliver services? Which nonprofit organizations receive public funds, and what services do they perform? • To what extent does Minnesota have consistent and effective grant management policies? How do state policies compare with those of other grant makers? • How well does the state oversee grants to nonprofit organizations? |
| <p>96. <i>Watershed Management</i> 2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is watershed management? • How does Minnesota manage its watersheds? • How well is Minnesota managing its watersheds? • Are state agencies providing adequate oversight of local water management entities? • How should the state promote consistent and effective watershed management? |