

Citizens League Mission

The Citizens League builds civic capacity in Minnesota by:

- Identifying, framing and proposing solutions to public policy problems;
- Developing new generations of civic leaders who govern for the common good; and
- Organizing the individual and institutional relationships necessary to achieve these goals.

Citizens League Principles

1. We believe in the power and potential of all citizens.
2. We believe in democracy and good governance.
3. We believe in civic leadership and active citizenship.
4. We believe in good politics and political competence.
5. We believe that individuals and institutions must sustain these ideals from one generation to the next.

Please visit our website for a more detailed explanation of our mission and principles:

www.citizensleague.org/who/identity/

Purpose of the *Minnesota Journal*

The *Minnesota Journal* promotes the Citizens League's mission by:

- *illuminating* critical public policy choices
- *innovating* civic solutions
- *incubating* new voices in policy discussion

Readership

Citizens League members and *Minnesota Journal* readers are engaged citizens, curious and informed about public policy and civic life. They have a range of backgrounds and levels of experience: our readers include college students, young professionals, policymakers and elected officials. Some are active members of the Citizens League and other civic and community organizations; for others, reading the *Minnesota Journal* is their primary way of keeping in touch with public life.

Guidelines for Submissions

Lead articles

Lead articles are **policy analysis pieces**, not opinion or promotional pieces.

To be considered for inclusion in the *Minnesota Journal*, lead articles should substantially address at least one of the following:

- Identify & analyze a public policy challenge
- Pose new solutions to public policy problems or evaluate existing public policy innovations
- Highlight examples of the Citizens League mission and principles in action, or situations in which the Citizens League mission and principles could be applied

Lead articles should run approximately 1500 words; however, length is flexible. All lead articles should include a graphical element, e.g.: a chart or graph, picture or illustration. If the body of the article does not lend itself to a chart or graph, Minnesota Journal staff will select a picture or illustration to include with the piece.

Article proposals must **explicitly answer the following questions**, either in the text or as an attachment. The answers to these questions will help us determine how to use your submission.

- ***What's the point?***
 - Include a one or two sentence thesis statement. This should frame your article and might serve as a headline or subheading in the *Minnesota Journal*.
- ***Why should readers care?***
 - Include a one or two sentence argument for why this issue matters to our readers – or include a graphical element (chart, graph, or photograph) that illustrates the importance of your thesis.
- ***What should readers know after reading your article?***
 - Highlight 3-4 ideas that the reader should take away from your piece. These might be used as a “bottom line” sidebar.

Features: Perspectives and Profiles

Perspectives pieces are an opportunity to **hear from Minnesotans about the issues that affect them** and their communities, and **to bring new voices into Minnesota's policy conversations**.

Profiles pieces **highlight the stories** and messages of **Minnesotans who work for the common good**. *Profiles* can use a narrative or a question-and-answer format.

The Citizens League encourages writers to use their personal voice and style in *Perspectives* and *Profiles* pieces.

Perspectives and *Profiles* pieces should run approximately 800 words. Like lead articles, *Perspectives* and *Profiles* submissions should explicitly answer the questions: *What's the point? Why should readers care? What should readers know after reading your article?*

Accuracy & Liability Policy

The author agrees to verify that: (a) the work is original and of your own creation; (b) where material is included from other sources, those sources are clearly cited; (c) the work is not protected or licensed by another publication or author; (d) the facts represented are true; (e) the work does not defame, libel or invade the privacy of any person or infringe any copyright.