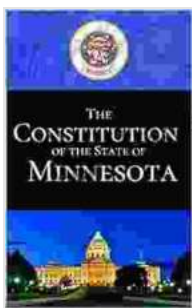


# The Constitution of the State of Minnesota: A Cornerstone of Governance

The Constitution of the State of Minnesota stands as the supreme legal document that governs the state, outlining the fundamental principles that shape its governance and safeguard the rights of its citizens. Adopted in 1857, this living document has undergone numerous amendments over the years, reflecting the evolving needs and aspirations of the people of Minnesota.

## Separation of Powers

The Constitution establishes a clear separation of powers among the three branches of state government: the legislative, executive, and judicial. This *разделение властей* ensures that no one branch can become too powerful and that the government remains accountable to the people.



## The Constitution of the State of Minnesota

by Rafael Gonzalo Medina Rospigliosi

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1995 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 88 pages



- **Legislative Branch:** Comprising the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives, the legislative branch has the power to make laws, levy taxes, and appropriate funds.
- **Executive Branch:** Headed by the Governor, the executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws, managing state agencies, and representing the state in official matters.
- **Judicial Branch:** Consisting of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Courts, the judicial branch interprets laws, resolves disputes, and ensures justice under the law.

## Bill of Rights

The Constitution's Bill of Rights guarantees a wide range of fundamental freedoms and protections for the people of Minnesota.

- **Freedom of Speech and Expression:** Protects the right to express one's opinions and ideas, including through speech, writing, and assembly.
- **Freedom of Religion:** Ensures the right to practice one's religion without government interference.
- **Right to Bear Arms:** Guarantees the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense.
- **Due Process of Law:** Prohibits the government from depriving individuals of life, liberty, or property without fair legal proceedings.
- **Equal Protection under the Law:** Prohibits the government from discriminating against individuals based on factors such as race, gender, or religion.

## Amendments

The Constitution can be amended through a process that involves a vote by the people. Over the years, numerous amendments have been adopted, reflecting changes in societal values and the evolving needs of the state.

- **14th Amendment (1868):** Prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude, and guarantees equal protection under the law.
- **19th Amendment (1920):** Grants women the right to vote.
- **21st Amendment (1933):** Repeals the 18th Amendment, which had prohibited the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcoholic beverages.
- **26th Amendment (1971):** Lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
- **38th Amendment (2012):** Establishes the right to marry for same-sex couples.

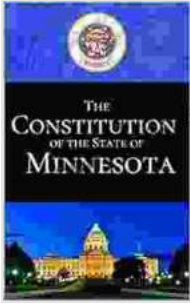
The Constitution of the State of Minnesota is a living document that has served as the bedrock of the state's governance for over 160 years. It establishes a system of checks and balances, protects the fundamental rights of its citizens, and provides a framework for responsive and accountable government. By understanding this foundational document, we can better appreciate the principles that shape our state and ensure that the government remains true to its purpose of serving the people of Minnesota.

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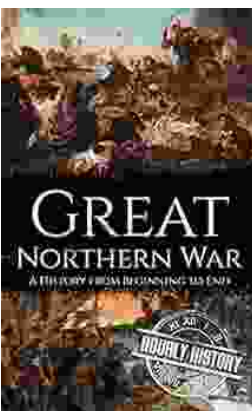


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