



# STATE of MINNESOTA

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Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## Executive Order 26-02

### Ensuring Safety at the Capitol

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order.

The Minnesota State Capitol is the People's House and it belongs to all Minnesotans. The Capitol is the central seat of Minnesota's state government, housing all three branches of government. Within its halls, laws are debated, enacted, interpreted, and enforced every day. Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, including thousands of school children, visit the Capitol each year to observe government in action, advocate for causes important to them, and participate in civic life.

However, violence and threats directed at public officials are on the rise. Last summer, Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, were killed in their home, and Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette Hoffman, were shot. Threats towards public officials have only grown more persistent and more intense.

In response to ongoing security concerns, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety ("DPS") commissioned an independent security assessment of the Minnesota State Capitol. The resulting report strongly recommended that DPS begin screening for prohibited weapons in order to better protect public officials, staff, and members of the public at the Capitol. The Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security, which includes the Lieutenant Governor, bipartisan legislators, and the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, met to assess security risks in the Capitol Area and voted to adopt the recommendation for weapons screening at the Capitol.

Keeping public officials, staff, and visitors safe in the Capitol is essential for efficient and transparent government function. A secure Capitol allows public servants to carry out their duties while protecting the public's right to access and engage with their government. It also helps preserve trust in democratic institutions by ensuring that this shared civic space remains open, welcoming, and resilient.

Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 609.66, subd. 1g, makes it a felony to possess a dangerous weapon, ammunition, or explosives within the Capitol unless a specific statutory exception applies. Minnesota Rules 2025, part 7525.0300, subpart 2, requires persons in designated parts of the Capitol Area to submit to inspection for weapons, explosives, or other dangerous substances. Screening for dangerous items prohibited under section 609.66, subd. 1g, at the Capitol is consistent with these laws, and will enable security personnel to detect and prevent the introduction of unlawful dangerous items into the Capitol. Screening will also serve as a deterrent to those who may wish to bring illegal weapons into the

Capitol to commit violence, intimidate people, or interfere with the orderly work of government. Weapons screening will make Minnesota's Capitol a safer and more welcoming place for all who use it.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. By the beginning of the legislative session on February 17, 2026, the Commissioner of Public Safety, working with the Colonel of the Minnesota State Patrol, will put in place the equipment and trained personnel necessary to implement weapons screening to ensure that unlawful dangerous items are not introduced into the Minnesota State Capitol in violation of Minn. Stat. Sec. 609.66, subd. 1g, during the 2026 legislative session.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until the end of the 2026 legislative session.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on January 26, 2026.



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**Tim Walz, GOVERNOR**

Filed According to Law:



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**Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE**