

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

MCN's Expanding Policy Agenda

MCN's Expanding Policy Agenda

- 20 years of policy positions
- Scope of subjects has expanded
- Leadership and influence has grown

MCN's Expanding Policy Agenda

- MCN's Organizational Capacity has grown
 - Membership base
 - Public Policy Cabinet
 - Policy Staffing
 - MCN 3rd largest policy staff to Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Minnesota Hospital Association
 - Ongoing communications & media

MCN Policy Leadership Level

- a) MCN recognized as leading an effort, organizes others to support.
- b) MCN actively uses resources to support a position, either sharing leadership or actively supporting a larger coalition.
- c) MCN publicly supports a position and informs members, but expends few resources.

Policy Agenda Types

- I. **Nonprofit Concerns**; *infrastructure issues that directly affect the operation of nonprofit organizations, such as tax exemption, postage rates, federal or state regulation, etc.*
- II. **Related Issues**; *broader decisions that affect nonprofits, the people they serve as well as the broader public, such as funding for social services and the arts.*
- III. **Public Issues**; *matters with a broad impact on the public but not generally seen as being a focus of nonprofit attention.*

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

I
Nonprofit concern

II
Related Issues

III
Public Issues

1987

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

- Defends nonprofit sales tax exemption
- Defend property tax exemption



I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1989

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

Began longitudinal public opinion poll on sales and property tax exemptions

B
Shared Leadership

Co-founder of NCNA
Editing team and lobby on 317a, MN Nonprofit Corporation Act

C
Supporting

I	II	III
Nonprofit concern	Related Issues	Public Issues

1990

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

MCN issues report
& lobbies for more
targeted uses of
charitable gambling
proceeds; provides
testimony on state
UBIT

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1991

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A

Leading

B

Shared
Leadership

C

Supporting

Testimony before
Congress on
nonprofit postal
regulations

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1995

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN calls for creation of fund to assist nonprofits in changes related to welfare reform

MCN launches Civic Engagement Project,

B
Shared Leadership

MCN opposes "Istook Amendment" to limit nonprofit advocacy

MCN launches *Partnership for Minnesota's Future* with Children's Defense Fund

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1996

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A

Leading

B

Shared
Leadership

C

Supporting

Joint public statement
from MCN & MCF on
state challenges from
government
restructuring

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1997

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN leads effort for \$750,000 appropriation for Minnesota Futures Fund

MCN launches Minnesota Budget Project to analyze state budget and tax implications

B
Shared Leadership

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1998

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

MCN recruits staff to
serve as nonprofit
liaison in
congressional
offices

A
Leading

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

1999

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN leads push for
MN Charitable
Giving Relief Act,
giving deduction to
non-itemizers

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2000

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

B
Shared
Leadership

C
Supporting

Budget Project
releases “Intro to
Property Tax Reform”
and “Poverty Despite
Work”

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2001

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN seeks to expand Charitable Giving Relief Act & funding for Nonprofit Development Fund

Work begins on government grants and contracts process

B
Shared Leadership

MCN and others oppose Revenue proposals to narrow sales and property tax exemptions

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2002

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

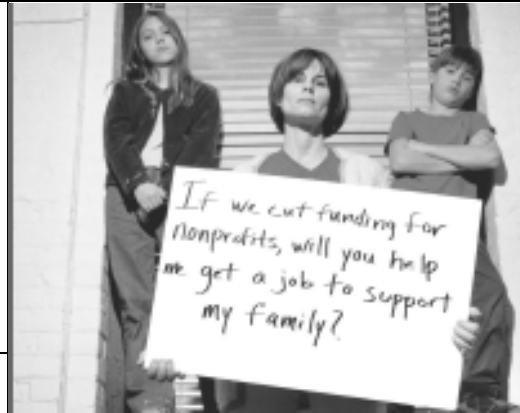
4th poll shows growing support for tax exemptions

Think Twice campaign opposes Ventura Administration grants freeze, funding cuts defeated.

Budget Project issues principles for state fiscal decisions

B
Shared Leadership

Lobbying and Advocacy Handbook published.



Budget Project and Property Tax Study Project release *Trends in Minnesota Government Growth*

C
Supporting

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2003

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN conducts Budget Impact Survey; MN AMT deduction restored in special session

Democracy, Charity, and the Economy:
Minnesota's Stake in Estate Tax Reform
A Dialogue with Bill Gates, Sr.

MCN calls on Pawlenty Administration to include taxes as part of budget fix

B
Shared Leadership

MCN & Nonprofit Assistance Fund offer training on reducing nonprofit budgets



MCN & Minneapolis Foundation launch "Deleted for Budgetary Reasons" opposing Pawlenty cuts

C
Supporting



I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2004

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN organizes events for financial advisors on Estate Tax Reform

MCN recommends nonprofits not accept bus strike grants



B
Shared Leadership

The Nonprofit Board Members Guide to Lobbying & Advocacy

MCN opposes cuts to renters credit

C
Supporting

MCN supports increase in state minimum wage

I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2005

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN opposes
Pawlenty grants
freeze

SESSION 2005

Session 2005: State Shutdown

B
Shared
Leadership

MCN organizes
briefings on Senate
Finance Committee
proposals for
increased nonprofit
regulation

MCN helps nonprofits
cope with partial
government shutdown

C
Supporting



I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2006

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading



Minnesota
Participation Project
coordinates voter
turnout

B
Shared
Leadership

MCN Opposes
constitutional
amendment on
same-sex
marriage/civil
unions

C
Supporting



I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues

2007

MCN Leadership/Policy Agenda Matrix

A
Leading

MCN secures change to permit new nonprofit insurance ANI-RRG

MCN supports use of inflation in budget forecasts

B
Shared Leadership

MCN supports reform of state grants process

MCN organizes Children's Issues Briefing

• MCN opposes the use of the Minnesota Constitution to make budget decisions

C
Supporting



I

Nonprofit concern

II

Related Issues

III

Public Issues