

AS WE HEAD into another election season in the fall of 2022, we find ourselves with an issue of *Minnesota History* that touches on various aspects of politics and lawmaking throughout the state's history. This wasn't a deliberate editorial strategy, necessarily, but each of the three main articles here reflect, in their own ways, issues and topics that resonate today. The articles also span more than 100 years of Minnesota history, from the Civil War through the 1980s and up to the lasting impacts today.

The timing of including the article "Rudy Returns and Minnesota Pivots: The 1982 Election for Minnesota's Governor" in this issue was intentional, as this year marks the fortieth anniversary of Rudy Perpich's triumphant return to the governorship following his ignominious defeat in the "Minnesota Massacre" of four years earlier. Author Benjamin Schierer was inspired by his own journey as mayor of Fergus Falls to examine how Perpich managed this comeback, the lasting effect his election had on Minnesota politics, and what lessons we can learn for today's polarized political climate.

Jessica Milgroom and Don Wedll explore our state grain—wild rice, or *manoomin* in Ojibwe and *psin* in Dakota—just in time for wild rice harvest season in Minnesota. In addition to describing the cultural significance and traditions around wild rice, the article investigates how state legislators enacted laws that worked to preserve wild rice in Minnesota. The authors show how traditional Ojibwe practices were held up against the forces of modernization and mechanization in agriculture as the legislature codified traditional Indigenous practices into law. The interplay between Indigenous traditions and laws and those of the state of Minnesota continue to confront and challenge lawmakers in the twenty-first century.

Going back to the early decades of Minnesota statehood, Trista Raezer-Stursa tells of US Representative Solomon G. Comstock and his efforts to secure pensions for Civil War veterans and their families. Various legislative efforts to guarantee pensions and provide financial assistance to veterans were frequently stymied by the bureaucracy of the federal government's Pension Bureau. Government bureaucracy and the struggle to provide health care and economic security for veterans is as much a front-page issue in the twenty-first century as it was in the nineteenth century.

What's that old quote about history rhyming . . . ?

—Josh Leventhal, Director of MNHS Press

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