



What is the MCFE?

- A 97-year-old research and education organization in support of sound tax policy and fiscal responsibility.
- Membership is comprised of businesses and business organizations, including many of the state's biggest companies and largest employers, as well as individuals.
- Our distinguished membership includes several former agency commissioners, as well as past and current elected officials. Our readership includes the legislature, executive agency leadership, current and past state economists, and policy/opinion leaders.

What makes the MCFE unique?

- **Our credibility** – on both sides of the political aisle.
- **Our reputation for accuracy and integrity** – national award-winning research; a “go to source” for the media seeking a true policy-focused, non-political take on the issues.
- **Our unique advocacy perspective and voice in state policy-making** -- we don't get involved in debates over levels of taxation and spending (other organizations ably fill that very crowded space). Instead, our advocacy centers on two fundamental ideas:
 1. A revenue system that adheres to principles of sound tax policy and public finance.
 2. Public spending that is transparent, efficient, accountable, and accomplishes its objectives.

“You are lucky to have this organization here, you really are.”

Dr. Eugene Steuerle,
Co-Founder, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, Washington, DC

“Very few states are blessed with an organization as capable of analyzing complex state tax proposals as the Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence. The non-partisan research and insights provided by the MCFE are essential prerequisites for any company seeking to operate effectively within the State's tax policy arena.”

Douglas L. Lindholm
President & Executive Director
Council On State Taxation (COST)

“MCFE is well-respected as a thought leader and their research, analysis, and insight is truly impressive helping guide state policies and policymakers in the development of sound state fiscal and tax policy to improve Minnesota's competitiveness and the stewardship of our taxpayer dollars.”

Beth Kadoun, Vice President, Tax and Fiscal Policy,
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

"MCFE has been one of the most influential organizations in state and local public finance. It has a reputation for performing honest, unbiased research and its commitment to sound tax policy is unrivaled."

David Brunori, Award-winning tax author and national tax commentator

What is the MCFE's Primary Messaging on Business Taxation?

- "Ability to pay" must be balanced by other tax principles that are no less crucial to a high-quality revenue system – including competitiveness.
- Because individuals ultimately pay the taxes imposed on businesses, the basis for taxing business should strongly correlate to the direct benefits business receives from government.
- Relying too heavily on business subsidies to finance state and local government shields the majority of voters from the cost of government programs. This practice creates dangers, especially greater, unrestrained incentives to spend and a loss of local control and accountability over tax and spending decisions.

What are the Benefits of Membership?

We keep you up to speed on developments at the state legislature and policy issues making news

- ***Legislative Spotlight***
In-session weekly publication summarizing tax bill introductions and tax and finance committee hearings accompanied by MCFE analysis and commentary
- ***MCFE E-briefs***
"Real time" updates on conference committee and end of session developments.
- ***Fiscal Focus***
Articles featuring more in-depth analysis on public finance and tax issues in the news.

Strengthening your organization's own advocacy efforts

Our comparative research, analysis, studies, education publications and public commentary are an invaluable resource for members in crafting and advancing their own public policy positions at the Legislature. Examples:

- *How Does MN Compare?*
- *50 State Property Tax Comparison Study* – in cooperation with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge MA
- *National Individual Income Tax Comparison Study* – to our knowledge the only filer-based effective tax rate study of its kind in the nation (published bi-annually)
- *"Fixing Public Pensions – What Every Citizen Should Know"* (updated bi-annually)

Continuing education credits and networking associated with our annual meeting and other events.

Opportunity to serve in leadership positions and guide the organization's research activities