

## Minnesota Advisory Committee

These business, military, farmer, faith, and community leaders understand that Minnesota wins when America leads in the world with strategic investments in development and diplomacy, alongside defense.

### Co-Chairs

**Hon. Norm Coleman**  
U.S. Senator  
(2003-2009)  
USGLC Board Member

**Beth Ford**  
LandO'Lakes, Inc.  
President & CEO  
USGLC Board Member

**Jason Adkins**  
Minnesota Catholic Conference  
*Executive Director*

**Basil Ajuo**  
Minnesota Africans United  
*CEO*

**Adriana Alejandro-Osorio**  
Alejandro Consulting Group, LLC  
*Founder & Principal*  
Esperanza United  
*Chief Advancement Officer*

**Chas Anderson**  
Park Street Public  
*Co-CEO and Senior Principal*

**GySgt John Baker, USMC (Ret.)\***  
Minnesota Association of County Veterans  
Service Officers  
*Executive Director*

**Karen Baumgaertner**  
Global Minnesota  
*Professional Exchanges Manager*  
Minnesota International NGO Network  
(MINN)  
*Co-Founder*

**Adam Birr, Ph.D.**  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion  
Council  
*Executive Director*

**Jackie Boucher**  
Children's HeartLink  
*President*

**Ward Brehm**  
U.S. African Development Foundation  
*Board Member*  
Allight  
*Board Member*

**Catherine Bruns**  
University of Colorado-Boulder  
*Research Team Member, MeCCO*

**Carol Engebretson Byrne**  
Global Minnesota  
*Past President*

**Gary Cunningham**  
Cunningham Inc  
*Independent Senior Consultant*

**Jim Dorsey, USMC\***  
Fredrikson & Byron  
*Counsel*

**Anna DeWitt, M.A.**  
University of Minnesota  
*Program Manager*  
Learning Abroad Center

**Peter Dross**  
The Center for Victims of Torture  
*Senior Advisor for External Relations*

**Diana DuBois**  
WellShare International  
*Former Executive Director*

**Jeff Dykstra**  
Partners in Food Solutions  
*Co-Founder & Sr. Advisor*

**Debbie Estes**  
Tunheim  
*Strategic Partner*

**Hon. Robert Flaten\***  
U.S. Ambassador  
*Rwanda (1990-1993)*

**Karen J. Frederickson**  
USAID  
*Senior Advisor (2010-2017)*

**Christine Fruechte**  
Colle+McVoy  
*Chair*

**Peter Geib**  
Minnesota State  
*Prof. Emeritus of Intl. Mgmt*

**Hon. Elizabeth Glidden**  
Minnesota Housing Partnership  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Minneapolis City Council  
*Council Vice President (2008-2017)*

**Amy R. Goldman**  
GHR Foundation  
*CEO & Chair*

**Jordan Gustafson**  
International Justice Mission  
*Head of Mobilization*

**Carolina Maranon-Cobos**  
University of Minnesota Institute for  
Advanced Studies  
*Program Manager*

**Patty Hall**  
H2O for Life  
*President*

**Paul Hanscom**  
Ewald Consulting  
*Chief Growth Officer*

**Dr. Jim Hart**  
University of Minnesota  
School of Public Medicine  
*Retired*

**Girma Hassen**  
NASAA  
*CEO & Project Manager*

**Judy Hawkinson**  
Rethos  
*Director of Philanthropy and  
Communications*

**Nicholas Hayden**  
Minnesota International NGO Network  
(MINN)  
*Marketing & Communications Manager*  
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

**Mary Hennessy**  
Industrial Fabrics Association  
International  
*President & CEO*

**Lori Higgins**  
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce  
*President*

**Steve Hunegs**  
Jewish Community Relations Council of  
Minnesota and the Dakotas  
*Executive Director*

**Mohamed Idris**  
American Relief Agency for the Horn of  
Africa  
*Co-Founder & Executive Director*

## Minnesota Advisory Committee

**Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya**

Southwest Minnesota State University  
*President*

**Eric Jolly, PhD**

St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
*President & CEO*

**Hon. Andrew Johnson**

Treehouse Management, LLC  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**Hon. Elizabeth B. Kautz**

City of Burnsville  
*Mayor*  
US Conference of Mayors  
*Past President*

**Bob Kill**

Enterprise Minnesota  
*President & CEO*

**Andy Kocemba**

Calhoun Companies  
*President & Co-Owner*

**Wally Kocemba\***

Calhoun Companies  
*Chairman & CFO*

**Matt Kramer**

Vision Loss Resources  
*President and CEO*

**Jill Lalonde**

Cova  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**John LeTourneau**

Market Forward LLC  
*Owner*  
The City of Ramsey, Minnesota  
*Mayor (2018-2021)*

**Doug Loon**

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
*President*

**Ken Martin**

Democratic National Committee  
*Chair*

**Tim Marx**

Winthrop & Weinstine. P.A.  
*Counsel*

**Peter Mayer**

FWD.us  
*Senior Associate*

**Wesley Meier**

Cova  
*Co-Founder & CEO*

**Mathew Meyer\***

Meyer Law Office  
*Attorney*

**Seann Nelipinath**

India Chamber of Commerce  
*Chairman*

**William Nelson**

William J. Nelson, LLC  
*Owner*

**Douglas A. Niemela**

H2O for Life  
*Executive Director*

**Hon. Erik Paulsen**

U.S. House of Representatives  
(2009-2019)

**Patrick Plonski, PhD**

Books for Africa  
*Executive Director*

**Dr. John Pournoor**

Government Analytica  
*CEO*

**Sandra Renner**

FasTrack Global Expansion Solutions Inc.  
*Chair of the board*

**Hon. Mark Ritchie**

Minnesota USA Expo 2031  
*Co-Founder, Steering Committee*  
Minnesota Secretary of State (2007-2015)

**Hon. Kristin J. Robbins**

Minnesota House of Representatives  
*State Representative*

**Tony Sanneh**

The Sanneh Foundation  
*Founder & CEO*

**Robert Scarlett**

Clearwater Layline, LLC  
*Senior Advisor*

**Dean Schieve, PhD**

Victus Motion & DMD Consulting  
*President*

**Laura Schmidt**

Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
*Senior Talent Marketing Specialist*  
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

**Scott Schroeder\***

Sitelogiq  
*Vice President of Operations*

**Ron Schwartz**

NRECA  
*National Director for Minnesota*  
NRECA International  
*Chair*  
Nobles Cooperative Electric  
*President*

**Eric Schwartz**

Humphrey's School of Public Affairs  
*Professor*

**Saciido Shaie**

The Ummah Project  
*Co-Founder & President*

**Jonah Simonds**

Medtronic, Inc.,  
*Principal Data Analyst*

**Alexandra Spielfeld**

Responsible Innovations  
*Gender & Food Systems Expert*

**Nick Swaggert, CCP\***

Mortenson  
*Senior Manager of Total Rewards*

**Laurel Stoneking**

Thomson Reuters  
*Manager of Strategic Initiatives*

**Cheryl Thomas**

Global Rights for Women  
*Founding Director*

**Charlie Weaver**

Minnesota Business Partnership  
*Executive Director*

**Jonathan Weinhausen**

Vattenfall-Fjäll  
*CFO*

**Jennie Wendland**

Disability Support International  
*Co-Founder & Executive Director*

**Dr. Christopher Whitsel**

North Dakota State University  
*Associate Professor*

**Barry Wilfahrt**

The Chamber – Grand Forks & East Grand Forks  
*President & CEO*

**Stephen B. Young**

Caux Round Table  
*Global Executive Director*

**Srilata Zaheer**

University of Minnesota  
Carlson School of Management  
*Dean and Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Global Corporate Social Responsibility*

\* Indicates Veteran of the  
U.S. Armed Forces

As of August 4th, 2025