

Chad Ward
Mayor

City of Proctor

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You Have a Place in Proctor

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**RESOLUTION 09-26
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MINNESOTA LOCAL
NEWS TALENT PIPELINE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, community news organizations are essential to community life, providing information critical to public safety, civic engagement, and local decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the local news landscape has changed dramatically in recent years, with news outlets shrinking at an alarming rate across Minnesota and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, reliable local information is becoming an endangered resource as the news industry struggles with technological disruption and financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, local news is vital for civic engagement, government accountability, and community resilience, serving as a cornerstone of democratic participation; and

WHEREAS, the decline of local journalism is not merely a business problem but fundamentally a democracy problem that threatens informed citizenship and transparent governance; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature can play a vital role in safeguarding the future of community news in Minnesota and preserving the essential role of local journalism in our state; and

WHEREAS, a state-funded program through the Workforce Development Fund to place emerging journalists and media professionals in Minnesota's small, community-based newsrooms would address critical workforce shortages while strengthening local news coverage; and

WHEREAS, SF4183 and HF4072 would establish the "Minnesota Local News Talent Pipeline Program," which would invest in early-career talent and local media, address workforce shortages in journalism, strengthen civic information infrastructure, and keep local news coverage alive, particularly in Greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, similar talent pipeline programs have been successfully implemented in other industries including hospitality, grocery, manufacturing, healthcare, and agriculture, demonstrating the effectiveness of this workforce development approach.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City of Proctor supports the passage of SF4183 and HF4072, which would establish the Minnesota Local News Talent Pipeline Program, and urges the Minnesota Legislature to approve this legislation to preserve local journalism and strengthen civic information in communities across the state.

Passed by the Proctor City Council on this 16th day of March 2026.

By: 
Chad Ward (Mar 16, 2026 18:50:44 CDT)
Chad Ward
Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jess Rich
City Administrator