Education Minnesota legislative screenings and endorsements

Education Minnesota will begin its candidate screenings for legislative races on March 30, unless the candidate has been approved for early endorsement. The hope is that the screenings can take place before the end of the school year to make sure all educators have an opportunity to participate.

Any candidate interested in seeking endorsement must be in contact with Education Minnesota members in their district. An Education Minnesota member then must contact their PAC board representative or the board chair to communicate the candidate's desire for endorsement. PAC board representatives can be found at educationminnesota.org/advocacy/EdMNVotes/Political-Action-Committee. All incumbent and non-incumbent candidates are required to participate in an Education Minnesota candidate screening interview or event.

Education Minnesota encourages screening teams to choose one or more of the following to enhance or take the place of the screening interview process:

- A public meeting: An event featuring member speakers sharing stories and seeking policy commitments from candidates on education and union issues.
- A roundtable Q&A: A live-streamed event where members ask questions and seek commitments from candidates on education and union issues.
- School visit: A half- or full-day school visit, sponsored by Education Minnesota members, in which the candidate can see and hear about education and union issues in their district.

These events should be planned by Education Minnesota members, with Education Minnesota staff support. Screening teams will also be reimbursed for any costs associated with doing turnout or hosting the event.

After the event, a vote by Education Minnesota members who participated will be taken and sent to the Education Minnesota Political Action Committee as the team's recommendation for endorsement.

Candidates will also be asked to fill out a questionnaire, which will be made public on Education Minnesota's website.

Early endorsement process

Education Minnesota members may request early endorsement considerations from the PAC. Members can contact their PAC board representative or the board chair, on behalf of the candidate, to begin the process. PAC board representatives can be found at educationminnesota.org/advocacy/EdMNVotes/Political-Action-Committee.

Once the PAC approves the request, the candidate can begin the early screening process. Candidates must submit the Education Minnesota endorsement nomination letter to staff. The nomination letter, found on the members-only section of the Education Minnesota website, must be signed by at least 50 verified Education Minnesota members who are constituents for Minnesota House seats, or at least 100 verified Education Minnesota members who are constituents for Minnesota Senate seats.

After the completed letter has been submitted to Education Minnesota staff, a candidate screening event can be scheduled. These early screening events should be completed before March 29.