

Campaign 2022: Governor Candidate Comparison

10-Minute Meeting Agenda and Guide

I. Introduction and grounding about why we need to talk about candidates for governor and why we need to vote. (4 minutes)

A. *You may not be into politics, but politics is into you.*


1. The governor can influence these items as it relates to your work:
 - a. *School funding (which funds everything from classroom resources to salaries!)*
 - b. *Special education-, English learner-, and Intermediate District-specific funding*
 - c. *Dedicated mental health supports for students and staff*
 - d. *Class size/workload*
 - e. *Length of school year*
 - f. *Health benefits*
 - g. *Due process*
 - h. *Retirement benefits*
 - i. *Hiring practices*
 - j. *Teaching credentials*
 - k. *Unemployment compensation*
 - l. *Negotiated contracts in higher education*
 - m. *Higher education credentialing*
 - n. *Campus repairs and upgrades*
2. The governor also can decide whether or not our state continues to have the right to collectively negotiate for better pay and benefits and learning and working conditions.
 - a. *In Iowa, anti-union lawmakers took control of the Senate, House and governor's office and decimated collective bargaining laws in 10 days after the legislative session began in January 2017.*
 - i. The new law limits most public-sector union contract negotiations to only base wages. Unions are now banned from negotiating with their employers over issues such as health insurance, evaluation procedures, staff reduction and leaves of absence for political purposes. The law also says that unions cannot have union dues deducted from public employees' paychecks.
 - b. *In Wisconsin, Act 10 passed in 2011, which eliminated collective bargaining rights for most public-sector workers.*
 - i. Teacher compensation plummeted \$10,483 within four years of Act 10 passing.

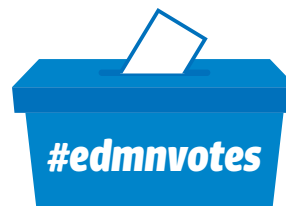
B. *Why do we need educators to vote?*

1. In 2022, we must choose leaders who will govern for *all* of us. By voting for a pro-public education House and Senate in 2018, we have seen increases in funding and dedicated mental health supports. When

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educators stand together and make our voices heard in our hometowns and at the Capitol, we can create the learning conditions our students deserve.

2. Certain corporate politicians plan to take away our freedom to negotiate for a fair return for our work and to advocate together for the services our students need. They're covering for the richest corporations and CEOs because they fear our power to make them finally pay what they truly owe to our communities and schools. This year, by joining together as voters, we can elect leaders who will respect *us*, not just the wealthy and powerful.

II. Go through candidate comparison piece (4 minutes)

- A. Ask members to share what issues in education they are most concerned about.
- B. Read through the candidate comparison questions and find one or two issues your colleagues shared that are reflected on the handout.
- C. Go through the differences between what Gov. Walz has said about his support on that topic and what Scott Jensen has said.
- D. Ask members to read the whole document and find one item that surprised them and share out with the group.
- E. Ask members if they would be willing to share this information with colleagues, family and friends. Let them know to watch for digital items coming out from Education Minnesota to share within their social networks.

III. Let's go vote! (2 minutes)

- A. Educators take pride in voting! However, 33,000 of us missed the 2014 election for governor, and about 15,000 of us missed the 2018 election. Minnesota elections, including when Mark Dayton was elected governor in 2010, have been decided by 8,000 votes or fewer – so educator votes can make a difference!
- B. Educators teach their students every year that, in America, voting is a fundamental freedom that every citizen should exercise. It's time to model that behavior in 2022.
- C. Share out any planned voting activities at your worksite.
- D. Voting is easy in Minnesota! You can cast your ballots early starting Sept. 23 and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.
- E. Pass out the half-sheet flyers with voting information and have people go to www.mnvotes.org to find their polling place and fill it in on the sheet!
- F. Visit www.edmnvotes.org to learn more about voting and what your union is doing to support pro-public education candidates in 2022.

