

2026 Minnesota Secretary of State questionnaire

Candidate name: Steve Simon

Campaign manager name: Patrick Gage

Campaign manager cell: 763-607-6385

Campaign manager email: pgage@dfi.org

Campaign address (for contributions): PO Box 4217, Hopkins, MN 55343

- 1. Please describe your most recent school visit and/or conversation with educators. What were your observations and what did you learn?**

During my current term in office, I have visited over eighty high schools. Talking about democracy with student audiences is one of the best parts of my job. My most recent visit was to St. Peter High School in St. Peter, Minnesota, where I spoke to two different social studies classes. My strong impression was that students are paying attention to democracy issues, and are hungry for more information.

- 2. How do you plan to expand voter access in Minnesota?**

I'll do everything in my power as Secretary of State to maintain and enhance voter access in Minnesota. In part, that means continued transparency. The more that people see of our election system, the more they like it. That also means taking on those who would degrade the well-earned faith in our system. I'm working hard to prepare for possible interference from the federal government, including, but not limited to, the presence of ICE near polling places and the issuance of last-minute executive orders from the White House. Finally, I'll keep reminding people about the Minnesota laws that provide an effective blend of voter access and voter security.

- 3. What do you see as the biggest risk to our freedom to vote and how do you plan to protect it?**

The biggest near-term risk to our freedom to vote is potential federal interference. The government has signaled its willingness to sway our elections in Minnesota. That's why my office has an "all hazards" approach to planning for disruption. Whatever comes at us, we'll be ready. We are actively planning (with national partners, with other Secretaries of State, and with numerous Minnesota partners) responses to possible federal overreach. Our elections will be as free, fair, and secure as always.

- 4. What actions will you take to prevent Federal immigration enforcement personnel from monitoring polling locations?**

First, we have ironclad laws against preemptively posting law enforcement officials at polling places in Minnesota. Those laws apply to federal personnel, and I have every confidence that those laws will be enforced those laws. Second, I will continue to remind people of their option to avoid polling places altogether by voting from home by mail.

5. What are your plans to combat election misinformation?

I will continue to travel across the state talking to voters about how and why our elections are safe, secure, and fair.

6. How do you plan to ensure safe and secure elections in Minnesota?

My office operates with an “all hazards” approach to ensuring that we have safe and secure elections in Minnesota. From hurricanes and power outages, to tornadoes or ICE, we’re ready for anything. We have good relationships with law enforcement and local election officials, and I’m confident they’ll be reliable partners during election season. I’m also grateful for the tens of thousands of Minnesotans who work at the polls to keep our elections secure.

7. What other improvements would you make to our elections? (i.e. voter education, safety and security, election administration)

I want to continue educating voters on their choices. That’s why my office presented a bill this year to fund a statewide voter guide that would cover most election contests. To increase turnout and bring even more people into the democratic process, we need to make sure they have the information they need. I also want to increase or investment in election security assistance, so that local governments throughout the state can count on the best defenses.