



Candidate for Minnesota House District 11A

May 7, 2026

Yes/No questions

1. Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year?

Yes

Q2. ESP living wage: Will you support legislation to ensure that all education support professionals earn a living wage of at least \$25 an hour?

Yes

Q3. Due to significantly below-market compensation for teachers, most school districts in Minnesota are having difficulty filling teaching jobs, and state colleges report a continued decline in the number of graduates from teacher preparation programs. Would you support creating a minimum salary for all licensed Minnesota teachers of \$60,000 a year and an \$80,000 minimum salary for licensed teachers with 10 years of experience and a master's degree?

Yes

Q4. Will you support increasing state funding to ensure the financial sustainability of educator public pension funds, so the cost doesn't come out of workers' pockets?

Yes

Q5. Will you support improving teacher pensions, including an unreduced career rule, lowering penalties, and increasing cost of living adjustments for retirees?

Yes

Q6. Do you support the creation of and funding for the Educator Group Insurance Program (EGIP), which would give educators access to a mandatory statewide health insurance pool, just like other state workers?

Yes

Q7. Do you support dedicated funding for unemployment insurance for hourly school workers, and will you work against any efforts to repeal this benefit?

Yes

Do you support the following education funding priorities?

Q8a. Maintain the current automatic inflationary increase to the basic formula allowance, protecting funding increases from the erosion of inflation.

Yes

Q8b. SPED cross subsidy: Fully fund special education costs instead of relying on school districts to pay for them.

Yes

Q8c. EL cross subsidy: Fully fund the costs districts pay to provide quality English learner programs and instruction.

Yes

Q8d. Lower class sizes: Lower class sizes so teachers can give students more of the individual attention they need and deserve.

Yes

Q8e. Teachers of color: Fund programs to increase the number of teachers of color significantly so that teachers providing instruction better reflect the students in our classrooms.

Yes

Q8f. Student support: Defend Student Support Personnel Aid, which must be used for school nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists.

Yes

Q8g. Defend against further cuts to school library aid, which is the only dedicated funding source for school libraries and media centers, including

Yes

Q8h. Early learning: Preserve and expand pre-Kindergarten options for all Minnesota families.

Yes

Q9. Would you commit to raising revenue to ensure the wealthiest corporations and richest households pay what they truly owe in taxes so every student, no matter what they look like or where they live, can attend a fully funded public school that prepares them to pursue their dreams?

Yes

Q11. Fully funded schools require adequate and stable revenues. Will you oppose tax cuts and carve outs that lower tax collections or narrow the tax base?

Yes

Q12. Efforts to address college affordability in the last two decades have resulted in 120% growth in the State Grant Program. One consequence of this high tuition/high aid model has been the chronic underfunding of the public college systems. Do you support returning to statutory funding levels for our public higher education institutions?

Yes

Q13. Another consequence of this high tuition/high aid model has been a significant amount of public money going to private colleges and universities. Do you support public dollars going solely to public higher education institutions?

Yes

Q14. Given nationwide attacks on higher education, do you support academic freedom and faculty control of curriculum?

Yes

Q17. Education Minnesota believes all students should have the freedom to feel safe, respected and welcomed in their public schools, no matter what they look like, no matter their country of origin, whether transgender or not. Do you agree?

Yes

Q18. Teachers need more time daily for planning and differentiating. Most after-school "prep" is filled with meetings. The current statute falls short of the time needed for preparing lessons. Will you support adjusting this statute to increase prep time?

Yes

Q19. Do you support paid, dedicated time outside of student contact time for special education teachers to complete their paperwork and attend required meetings?

Yes

Q20. Do you support increased reporting and transparency in worksite safety when reporting physical injuries and emotional trauma in the workplace?

Yes

Q21. The ability of workers to come together in a union and bargain collectively has been vital for reducing wage gaps by gender, building the middle class, and limiting wealth inequality in Minnesota. Do you support expanding and strengthening workers' rights to join a union and bargain collectively?

Yes

Q22. Will you oppose any legislation or constitutional amendments that would weaken collective bargaining rights, the right to organize, the right to strike, automatic payment of union dues, union access and activities at worksites or other anti-union policies backed by anti-worker groups?

Yes

Q23. Do you oppose state tax credits for private K-12 education tuition and expenses?

Yes

Q24. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until policy changes are made to ensure a stronger accountability system that will eliminate fraud and improve instructional and employment practices?

Yes

Q25. Will you reject all efforts to carve out, delay or rollback any aspects or benefits of the 2023 paid family medical leave law?

No

Q26. Do you support clarifying and strengthening workers' rights and protections in the paid family medical leave program?

Yes

Q1a. If yes: Which one? What were your observations from your visit? How will this experience inform your work as a legislator?

Cloquet Senior High... (where I work.) We do a heck of a job... Also, I plan on visiting an elementary classroom in Esko. Concerns in the area include a possible district merger, fully funding all districts, and the bonding needs of the Northern Lights Academy now housed in Cloquet. They need a place and the best way to take care of their needs is to build a facility appropriately designed for their current and future needs.

Q10. Education Minnesota believes in restoring fairness to the state tax code by raising revenue from the very wealthiest corporations and richest households and reducing the reliance on local levies to fund schools. What progressive, equitable ways to raise state revenue do you support?

Not one dime more for stadiums or tax breaks for businesses before we take care of our children, from Pre-K through college, investing in early childhood education and childcare through college for our kids makes the most sense, morally and economically... Priority setting, and in a measured, predictable way, raising revenue through income and wealth taxation will be necessary to meet the needs of our population. Those at the top of the economic ladder have an obligation to pay it forward, investing in what made it possible to achieve their wealth. The problem isn't a matter of whether the money exists in the economy, but where it ends up. My preference is that we responsibly make life better for all without driving business from Minnesota or enabling free-loaders to exploit our generosity. Threading that needle is the challenge. Bipartisan solutions to that end are the best answer, but in the short term, getting real with our wealthiest corporations and households with a fistful of charts and tables explaining the outcomes if they simply pay their fair share may help. (If it doesn't help them agree, at least they'll know what's coming.)

Q15. What individual or system-level decisions in education do you believe are appropriate to make based on standardized test scores?

Reading and math scores have suffered over the years since Covid effectively created a new baseline. Continued funding for research-based and best-practice trained essentials-level classes to get our students back on track is necessary and overdue in many districts. They need help, not just to keep the doors open, but to have the training and expertise needed to make necessary improvements. At the end of the day, legislators need the expertise of our educators and curriculum specialists to make those improvements. The chambers of commerce should have some input, too, but not at the expense of teachers at the table.

Q16. Most educators believe students should have access to a wide range of age-appropriate books that include relatable characters and situations that reflect the diversity of Minnesota families. However, certain politicians and big money groups are trying to remove books from school libraries across America, particularly books with LGBTQ+ characters or those that deal with racism in America. How should Minnesota protect its students' freedom to read?

I support current law that requires no outright book bans, professional oversight of libraries, policies and processes for reconsideration of library material, age-appropriateness and so on. We're not made better by restricting access on a wide level... these have been some crazy times. I've been a member of a library board and library foundation board and I'm continually amazed by the excellence of not only our school library but our community libraries as well. Much to be proud of in this realm. Let's keep at it.

Q27. How would you support schools, educators and students in recovering from the trauma and financial impacts that Operation Metro Surge inflicted upon our state, especially BIPOC communities?

The damage done by Operation Metro Surge is significant and real. I'm reluctant to throw out a bunch of options that wouldn't really meet the need... I think that what we need is for those directly affected to be at the table, to have the cities impacted determine the best ways to help their residents, to have the police and their unions weigh in as well... It ought to be an all-hands-on-deck approach. This is a multi-faceted problem, one that will demand a multi-faceted set of solutions. I anticipate the financial losses may not be recovered, but low-interest loans or grants for getting businesses back on their feet could be developed and administered with the help of economic development authorities, delaying or restructuring loan repayments for other projects, providing money to support social and mental health workers in schools and community centers. These don't really meet the immediate relief needs, though, which has been done by local leaders and an army of independent and volunteer operators taking care of people they don't even know. Those people need celebrating and support from the legislature. One size won't fit all; we need to be nimble enough to monitor and adjust our approach. Recovering lost time with students will likely take more time, more access to mental health services, remedial coursework, among other costly options. I don't have all the answers, but, together, I bet we can figure it out.