

From: Education Minnesota <webmaster@educationminnesota.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 4:22 PM
To: Blewett, Matt [MN] <Matt.Blewett@edmn.org>
Subject: 2025 Candidate Screening form from Simon Glaser district Senate District 24

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Candidate endorsement questionnaire - 2025 Fall Special Election
Candidate name
Simon Glaser
Election district
Senate District 24
Party endorsement
DFL
Email
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Educator Pay
1. 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
2. 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

Pensions

3. Will you support increasing state funding to ensure the financial sustainability of public pension funds?

Yes

4. Will you support exploring the necessary benefit improvements in order to provide educators with a secure retirement, including reducing early retirement penalties, lowering the normal age of retirement and a career threshold that will help recruit and retain educators?

Yes

5. How will you support efforts to lower inequitable penalties in the Teachers Retirement Association in order to expand retirement options?

Two ways come immediately to mind. First, I would support unfreezing Cost Of Living Adjustments. Second, current penalties are far too high, and more than adequate to discourage people from retiring early. They can be significantly lowered while still maintaining the fund.

Health care

6. Do you support educators having access to a mandatory statewide health insurance pool, just like other state workers?

Yes

7. Do you support the current language that allows educator locals to unilaterally seek a bid and join the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) as the insurance provider for local bargaining units?

Yes

8. All Minnesotans deserve access to affordable health care and publicly managed plans like MN Care and Medicare are some of the most efficient plans out there. The legislature is currently seeking a federal waiver to expand MN Care to more residents. Do you support expanding all public health care programs to include more working people?

Yes

Education funding

a. Reverse Minnesota's perpetual underfunding of education by significantly increasing the per-pupil funding formula.

Yes

b. SPED cross subsidy: The state must fully fund special education costs instead of relying on school districts to pay for them.

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

e. Full-service community schools: Expand access to full-service community schools across the state.

Yes

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

Yes

g. Student support: Continue providing additional resources for school districts to hire more student support staff, including counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses and other job classifications.

Yes

h. TDE/Q Comp: Fully fund the 2011 Teacher Development and Evaluation law, an unfunded state mandate, to ensure teacher quality and lift the cap on the Q Comp program.

Yes

i. Professional development: Provide professional development to all staff around cultural competency and trauma-responsive classrooms with aims of closing the discipline disparity gap.

Yes

j. Education debt relief: Provide debt relief to retain teachers so they can afford to stay in the classroom.

Yes

Taxes/revenue

10. 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

11. 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. Considering your own experience and expertise, are there other progressive, equitable ways to raise state revenue that you would recommend the union consider supporting?

Yes

12. 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

13. A balanced tax code draws revenue from a mix of income, sales, and property taxes. Will you support policies that maintain both adequate funding and a sustainable balance between revenue sources?

Yes

Higher education

14. Do you support increasing the state's direct investment in public higher education to significantly reduce institutions' reliance on tuition?

Yes

15. Will you support investments in capital bonding projects that preserve buildings, remodel classrooms and keep our technology assets current?

Yes

16. Do you support DEI efforts on our college campuses and universities?

Yes

17. What would you do, as a state legislator, to help with the cost of higher education?

I would support the expansion of the North Star Promise to include additional expenses such as books and housing. I would also support increasing the cap on household income above \$80,000 at a gradual rate to partially fund the education of students whose families make a bit more. I also would like to see the state return to prior funding levels for state universities, which would offset tuition costs.

18. The North Star Promise is expected to result in an increase in enrollment on our campuses. Many of these students are projected to be disproportionately first-generation students and students from historically underserved communities. As a legislator, what would you do to ensure these students had the support they needed to be successful?

Again, I would support the expansion of the North Star Promise to include additional expenses such as books and housing. I would also support the expansion of work study programs.

19. There are efforts to expand the North Star Promise to Minnesota's private colleges and universities. This would dramatically increase the amount of public money going to private institutions. Do you support the expansion of the North Star Promise to include private colleges and universities?

No

High-quality professional educators

20. What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality educators in our classrooms?

The best way to recruit and retain high-quality educators is to increase salaries and benefits. This could be achieved by increasing the per-pupil funding formula, mandating minimum salaries for educators, and getting the skyrocketing cost of healthcare under control.

Standardized testing

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

Standardized testing can be an effective tool for educators to screen students for additional help in their classrooms. They can be useful for students and educators to measure growth. They can be used in aggregate to plan lessons that address deficiencies in the classroom as a whole. However, they must never be used as an evaluation tool for educators or schools.

Honesty in Education

22. 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?

Minnesota has done a good job of this to this point, and I will work to ensure that students continue to have access to books that represent the whole of our community. I will work to ensure that we continue to have access to books that include honest accounts of our shared history. I will always resist efforts to limit access to age-appropriate ideas.

23. Education Minnesota believes all students should have the freedom to feel safe and welcome in their public school, no matter what they look like, where they’re from, how they pray, transgender or not. Do you agree?

Yes

24. Students bring many needs into their public schools, but our union believes they all deserve the freedom to grow with the help of support for their mental health and with lessons in how to recognize and control their emotions, which is sometimes called social-emotional learning. Do you support increasing support for students’ mental and emotional health in public schools?

Yes

Time to Teach

25. The planning and differentiating that teachers do daily needs more time. 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

26. Will you support legislation that protects an educator’s prep time so it can’t be used for meetings or having to sub for colleagues?

Yes

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

Yes

School safety

28. Creating incentives for school administrators to enforce districts' codes of conduct without bias and/or creating accountability measures for those who don't?

Yes

29. Increase reporting and transparency in worksite safety when reporting physical injuries and emotional trauma in the workplace?

Yes

Union Rights

30. The ability of workers to come together in 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

31. 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

32. How will you support unions as a state legislator?

I would resist any effort to erode protections for collective bargaining, such as any weakening of the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA). I look forward to working with organized labor to work towards building a Minnesota that works for our working people. I will always listen to the priorities of organized labor and then work to find solutions.

Privatization

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

Yes

34. Will you support policy changes that will ensure a stronger accountability system with necessary oversight and reporting to ensure quality management and instructional practices in charter schools?

Yes

35. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until such changes are made?

Yes

Your role as a legislator

Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year? If so, which one? What were your observations from your visit? How will that experience inform your work as a legislator? If not, when did you last visit a school? Would you like us to help arrange a visit?

I have been a teacher for over 30 years. I currently work at John Marshall High School in Rochester.

What have you done to become informed on issues relating to public education? What organizations and individuals do you go to for your information?

I have been heavily involved in our union for many years. I have served as a Faculty Representative, Middle School Representative to the Executive Board, Governmental Relations Representative, and Vice President. I have been a delegate to the state Representative Convention, as well as the National Education Association Representative Assembly. I have served as a negotiator, and as a Get Out the Vote Leader. I have served on the Education Minnesota Legislative Action Committee. I have served on the NEA Resolutions Committee. All of these have informed my priorities as it relates to education.

How do you envision working with Education Minnesota if you are elected/re-elected? If you disagree with us on an issue, how will you communicate that?

I have worked on behalf of Education Minnesota at the capitol both lobbying and testifying before the Senate. As a legislator I would consider myself a strong partner for Education Minnesota. I plan to maintain the type of close working relationship that would allow for an honest exchange of ideas, even when those ideas are not precisely in alignment.

If elected/re-elected, how will you balance competing priorities that might exist between Education Minnesota and other education groups?

As a member, I have always viewed Education Minnesota as the most qualified and important voice in education. As a legislator, I would of course need to balance the needs of EDMN with those of other groups, such as groups representing administrators, superintendents, parents, and students. I am confident that my own student-centered and pro-labor values would have no trouble finding a way forward in situations where there are competing needs between groups. My priority is always to put people first, will always attempt to keep this front and center in my mind.