

Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 37

Jun 29, 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?

Yes

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?

I have visited all of the elementary schools in Maple Grove in the past year for DARE graduations - Weaver Lake Elementary, Elm Creek Elementary, Rush Creek Elementary, Fernbrook Elementary, Oakview Elementary, Basswood Elementary, Cedar Island Elementary, Rice Lake Elementary. I am a city council member in Maple Grove, and I try never to miss a DARE graduation because I want to see what the school leadership, teachers, parents, and kids are up to. Our student population is much more diverse than that of the adult population currently, which shows me that when these kids come of age, we will have a very different community. As a future state senator, it's important for me to understand that the needs of the community are changing and to be prepared to adapt accordingly. Since it looks like there is nowhere else for more general comments, I do want to note that I have experience in higher education where I was the academic chair of a department at a private art college for three years overseeing two degree programs, 10 faculty, and the student body enrolled in the degrees. I do not have much experience with grade school and high school. other than my dad being a high school band director and my mom being an elementary principal, school administrator, and teacher. I am personally the product of public schools all the way from elementary through my Ph.D.

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?

Minnesota has among the most progressive, equitable tax codes in the United States. I agree that relying on local levies, whether through county, city, or school district taxes, places a disproportionate burden on lower income families. As a city council member, I have worked very hard with my colleagues to keep our city tax levy as low as possible from year to year while delivering high-quality, essential public services. I am open to the idea that was proposed this past session of taxing the largest social media platforms to identify a new source of revenue for early child development programs, mental health services, and education. All of these areas have been consistently underfunded for years, and it is not sustainable continuing like this.

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

I believe targeted investments are needed when standardized test scores show an achievement gap. Rather than throwing the same amount of additional money at the entire system, directing investments to where they are needed the most is a smart and fiscally responsible way to support our students across Minnesota. I say this while being cautious of using standardized test scores as the only achievement metric. There are many other markers of success and achievement in education that should be considered, such as how students are developing in terms of emotional maturity, extracurricular activities, citizenship, and contributing to the community.

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?

Watching what has unfolded the past few years with heated book banning discussions in school board meetings has been surprising to me. I grew up in rural ND to two conservative educators. They always made sure I had access to a wide range of books and weren't controlling of what I was reading. From a young age, I had already read many classics and was reading far above my grade level. That helped drive my achievement not only in school but in life. I am proud that Minnesota has passed anti-book-ban legislation, requiring formal challenge processes and having certain legal protections for librarians. I have been to school board meetings where I have seen these discussions taking place, and I believe the legislation has helped our school boards know what to do with book challenges. I will oppose efforts to weaken this legislation, and if there are other protections needed, I am interested to know what those are and I will support them.

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?

I would support the legislation that was proposed this year but did not pass to once again protect our hospitals, schools, churches, shelters, and other sensitive space from immigration and customs enforcement. I would also ensure we are funding culturally specific mental health and social services in schools by providers who are informed about the mental health and financial impacts on students and families. I support ensuring employee assistance programs for our educators and support staff are well funded so that they can complete the prescribed course of therapy without having to pay large amounts of money out of pocket. The healing process could take years for our educators, students, and families to recover from, and our kids cannot learn if they're actively experiencing trauma.