

Candidate for Minnesota House District 40B

Jun 11, 2026

Yes/No questions

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

No

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 assisted Roseville Area High School during Operation Metro Surge and have participated in multiple labor actions in solidarity with the local unit of EdMN, thanks to the organizing efforts of my former teacher Gregg Martinson, but I cannot say those have counted as an official school visit! It's a goal of mine to get out to RAHS in the fall to do a full visit!

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?

Beyond a 5th Tier (and potentially higher tiers) income tax, we must work to close current loopholes in our corporate tax system. It has also been 25 years since we've re-evaluated our property tax system and the result is a tax burden that has been shifted from corporations to largely middle-class home owners and seniors trying to age in place. As part of our discussions on how to overhaul this system so as to reduce the reliance on local levies, I will be advocating for a pied-a-terre tax reform, similar to what New York State recently did so that local units of government can charge higher property taxes on luxury homes that are not the owner's primary residence. I also believe it is high time we adopt former Governor Dayton's "Snow Bird" Tax Proposal that would create a part-time resident status for folks who live out of state for most of the year to avoid our income tax threshold.

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

I do not there are any decisions, individual or system-wide, that can be made solely on standardized test scores. Whether it's a child, a school, or a school district, a test score is but one type of data point. Other factors must be considered when making decisions about a child's education, our schools, or public education as a whole. Quantitative data is insufficient on its own and lacks context that qualitative data can provide. We should always aim to dive deeper than the test scores before making critical decisions about public education.

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?

Often times local level book bans are justified at least in part by citing "local control." That's bullshit - especially in this context. I would support legislation to pre-empt book bans on the local level and then provide greater protections at the state level, so that when the political tides turn (because they will with unerring inevitability), we don't find ourselves in a situation where certain books are banned across the entire state. This would likely have to come in the form of a Constitutional Amendment, which is a HUGE undertaking, but I'd be interested in exploring this option if other stakeholders are interested in helping carry forward the enormous public advocacy campaign that Constitutional Amendments require.

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?

While I'm proud to say we got passed \$40 million in rental assistance last year - credit to Leader Stephenson and Rep. Frazier for getting that done in a tied House - there is still much, much more that we must do. Though some of the proposals below are not explicitly for schools, they will impact the whole community, including schools, educators, and students:

- Institute sensitive space protections, including schools
- Unmask law enforcement agents, including ICE agents
- Establish a private right to action against ICE agents and the Department of Homeland Security for violations of Constitutional Rights
- Empower the BCA to fully investigate use of force incidents
- Formalize and fund the Minnesota Truth Council, established by Governor Walz in the wake of Operation Metro Surge and Operation PARRIS
- Provide small business and employee recovery funds for the hundreds of millions of dollars in lost wages and economic activity during these ICE operations.