

Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 48

Jun 9, 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 four children, three graduates of Chaska High and a rising 10th grader at Chanhassen High. They have all had excellent educational experiences that well prepared them for college and grad school (one is a Junior at UMD, the older two have Master's degrees, one from the U of M and one from UND). That said, I've been disappointed by the budget cuts at the schools and would very much like to see a larger share of funding from the state to reduce the need for staffing and programmatic cuts.

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?

My children have gone (and are going) to an excellent school system that also has been plagued by budgetary issues. The quality of our children's public education should not vary based on their zip code. Fully funding our schools at the state level would reduce reliance on property taxes to fund schools. Minnesota is a great place to run a large-scale business, in large part due to our quality educational system that prepares students well for future employment. It seems very reasonable for persons and corporations that have benefitted from the quality workforce to pay into a progressive tax system at level commensurate with the benefits gained.

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

I believe that standardized test scores can be a useful piece of information that informs individual and system-level decisions, but there are significant problems with overreliance on test scores, as they are heavily influenced by socioeconomic factors, language barriers and other issues. While test scores can provide a measure that is helpful to understand progress or need, they are one data point of many. I would not rely on standardized scores alone for any educational or systemic decision (but am open to one I might have missed, as I am not an educator by trade).

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 will always oppose book banning that is targeted at books that center stories about LGBTQ+ and BIPOC characters. Representation in fiction (and nonfiction) is important in showing kids that their story deserves to be told as much as their classmates, and learning the stories of the historical and modern fights for civil rights is important. I could potentially see a situation where a book foments hate or discrimination being problematic, but I haven't yet seen a "pro-racism" book, so I'm pretty comfortable opposing all book banning. Should someone propose the inclusion of such books, I might be compelled to move my position. That said, the bar for removal should be high, so as to prevent people from trying to politicize the process of book selection.

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?

When ICE was in Chaska, my family and I were involved in the community's response. When we heard that folks were getting fed, but teens were missing out, my wife and I reached out to folks in our fledgling campaign and put together a drive for what our teen calls "fun snacks" and filled care packages with the kinds of stuff that the teens were missing. It didn't get them out around friends, but it let them know that folks cared about them.

I want to see our legislature ensure that every student or staff member who was traumatized by Metro Surge, has access to the counseling services that they or their families need (in whatever language is most comfortable to them).