

## Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 52

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?**

No

**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 attended a couple of different events at schools this year. Two Rivers High School in District 197 held a meeting for legislators, which included extensive student participation including informal conversation time to get their input on their school, the challenges they face, and their hopes for the future. It also included a meal prepared by students, entertainment by student musicians, and formal presentations by students.

In addition, I participated in the District 196 legislative meeting at Rosemount Elementary. This breakfast meeting included the meal served to kids at the school. Unfortunately, since conversations ran long, I was unable to take part in the tour.

I've had visits from multiple student groups who were at the Capitol advocating for gun safety, climate sustainability, bullying, banning flavored vapes, protecting our democracy and other issues. Groups of teachers have also spoken with me about their concerns, in particular health care costs, teacher and staff burnout, and the ability to meet their student's needs given classroom pressures and shortage of resources for support services.

It's a sobering situation. The financial pressures on our public schools are daunting and funding improvements we've made are far from adequate. Students are facing mental health challenges due to so many social and environmental factors and we need to provide more resources to help them. At the same time, the students themselves are inspiring, seeing them step up to advocate for the world they want to live in pushes me to work that much harder on their behalf. I'm determined to keep actively pursuing opportunities to be guided by the vision of our youth as I work on policies that affect them.

**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?**

I support developing a tax policy that shifts burden from lower and middle class workers. We need to ensure that our wealthiest individuals pay their fair share and that large corporations no longer get a tax free pass in Minnesota. I also supported the constitutional amendment to increase the funding coming from the school trust to better support schools.

We need to look at new ways to fund other state responsibilities such as transportation, building on the progress we've made to bolster dedicated funding to prevent competition with education funding. And we need to revisit the school formulas to move away from districts that are "haves and have nots." We simply can't tolerate the inequity that results from our system that is so heavily reliant on local property taxes.

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

As a mom of four adult kids, all of whom were educated in public schools, I see little value in standardized tests and am hard-pressed to see any important decisions that should be made based on these test results. In fact, they seem to provide disincentives to quality education. However, as a non-educator, I would defer to educators to provide guidance on how to best use these and other inputs to guide the education of our children.

**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?**

To start, book banning must not be allowed, and we need to ensure that we have protections for teachers to use materials that reflect the diversity of Minnesota families. Also, we must continue to ensure that materials in our schools' curricula allow all students to see themselves and ensure that harmful biases are not perpetuated through classroom materials and books. This is even more important than in the past given the attack on diversity, equity, and inclusion; thus, an attack on the value of individuals.

This includes all forms of diversity, including race, religion, gender identity and expression, people with disabilities, and neurodiversity, among others.

**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?**

First of all, we need to continue to remain vigilant; ICE and the Department of Homeland Security have not left Minnesota. They've just gotten somewhat less overt in their actions. We also know that many families still live in fear and many have family members who are in custody or have been deported. Recognizing that the trauma is ongoing is essential to validating their experiences.

As a legislator, I'm deeply disappointed that we didn't take concrete steps to mitigate additional assaults and that we didn't provide economic assistance to businesses, particularly immigrant owned or operated businesses to help them recover. We need a positive election outcome so that we can enact ongoing reforms on policing, restitution, and additional mental health and trauma services.

In the meantime, I've continued to monitor ICE activity through Signal groups in my community, participate in planning sessions, help channel resources to affected people, and use my notary authority when needed.