

Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 60

Jun 15, 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?

My children attend Edison High School in Minneapolis, so I regularly visit in my capacity as a parent. Their educators are dedicated and involved experts who deserve stability so their students can also experience more stability. I know teachers personally both through the school experience and in the community, so I hear directly about how Edison. In short though, I am glad my children attend Edison High School.

I spent a day at Marcy Arts Elementary School in Southeast Minneapolis as "Principal for a Day" in December just as Metro Surge was beginning. ICE agents had taken a person within sight of the school bus drop-off the day prior. A portion of my day was time shadowing the principal and a portion was spent shadowing educators. Marcy Arts educators seems to all be on the same page with their focus to meet children where they are and meet their needs. Work was underway well before the children arrived so they could be greeted with love and breakfast (obviously free and available to all!) - breakfast was a good reminder that education requires wrap-around services to help our children be ready to learn no matter their background.

The classrooms were full of children, art, and joy. I am uncertain if the classes were overfilled as the educators maintain a joyful order in the classrooms.

The biggest reminders of the day for me: 1) all individuals in the school educate our children - we need to provide stability and expertise in these jobs so the children experience the same; 2) wrap-around services need to be available and free for all students; 3) Students arrive from highly varied home experiences - we need to be prepared and understand how to meet those varied needs.

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 am the Senate lead on the Tax Expenditure Revenue Commission (TERC) which examines all tax breaks in Minnesota. I see directly how we have created a tax regime that purports to be progressive, but has created giant carve outs that benefit the wealthiest amongst us.

Here are a few items I support to raise revenue:

- 1) A millionaire tier for income tax
- 2) Closing sales tax carve outs including for data centers, luxury sports boxes, gold bullion, horses, "air flight equipment," and others
- 3) Statewide business property tax
- 4) Expanding the Permanent School Fund to include proceeds from additional extractive industries
- 5) Social media tax

We can also continue to build Minnesota's attractiveness as a state for people to move to and live in. We showed in Metro Surge that we will stand up loudly for our neighbors - by continuing to organize and create policies like the Trans Refuge Act, we will attract more people to Minnesota who will invest in Minnesota and continue to raise our state's revenue.

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

I don't believe that funding for schools should be solely based on standardized test scores. For example, the current incentive-based model for literacy aid does not reflect the realities of many districts and creates a situation where the haves receive more and those districts that need more help receive less. A more thorough approach is needed.

In this space, I am developing my expertise and would appreciate help developing increased understanding.

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?

We should not ban books and we must maintain the freedom to read. I remember exploring the library in high school and finding a few books on the shelves that may have embarrassed my parents. But those books helped encourage me and my friends to spend more time reading than if we were just the same old boring, stuffy books. We need to continue let our children explore and recognize that the world is bigger than their school.

Books with LGBTQIA2s+ characters, books that deal with racism in America, books that deal with misogyny are necessary in our schools. They make us better. I will work to ensure that prohibition on book banning remains firmly the law. And, I will work with the Attorney General's office to help enforce the law. Education Minnesota should not need to be on the front lines suing school districts to ensure the law is enforced (I am grateful that they have done so).

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?

To start, our schools, educators, and students need justice for the illegal, immoral actions that occurred during Donald Trump's Metro Surge. We must continue to pursue charges against the agents who assaulted and murdered people throughout Minnesota. We also must change state law to allow individuals to sue federal agents for violations of our constitutional rights. By both state and federal law, schools and school property must be places where federal agents cannot operate without a warrant. And we must enhance and enforce separation ordinances so local law enforcement acts to protect our neighbors.

To repair the trauma, we must provide funding for trauma-informed counselors and train educators to help our students. Our schools need to continue to be a place of safety and haven. For schools like Columbia Heights that were uniquely affected by Metro Surge, I would advocate a special recovery fund to restore the drop in funding that will occur with the loss of students.

Personally, I will continue to be on the streets to provide a visible example of leadership standing up to tyranny.