

2026 MINNESOTA ELECTION GUIDE



STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

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MINNESOTA VOTING INFORMATION

Where and when do I vote?

There are three ways to vote in Minnesota: by mail, early in-person and in-person on Election Day.



Voting by mail began Sept. 18. Some precincts in rural areas are mail ballot precincts, and ballots are automatically mailed to registered voters there. If you don't live in a mail ballot precinct, you can still request a ballot at mnvotes.gov/absentee. You can return your ballot by mail, and those ballots must be received by no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Or, you can drop it off yourself at your county elections office no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day.



Early in-person voting also began Sept. 18. You can go to your county's early voting location(s), usually the courthouse or government center, and fill out an absentee ballot. You will need to know your MN ID or Social Security number to fill out the application.

Starting Oct. 16, voters can cast ballots as part of the "early voting process," which is more similar to voting on Election Day. You'll fill out a short certificate, fill out a ballot and then put it into the ballot counter.



On **Election Day**, Tuesday, Nov. 3, you can go to your local polling place to vote until 8 p.m. You can find your polling place at mnvotes.gov/pollfinder.

Local election officials also send teams of election judges to nursing homes and hospitals during the 35 days before the election and provide ballots to voters who live in the city or town where the facility is located. You can contact facility management or your local election office to find out when that will happen.

How do I register to vote?



You can register to vote or update your registration online at mnvotes.gov or by returning a paper form to your local elections office until Oct. 13. You'll need your Minnesota ID or Social Security number.

You can also register when you vote, either early in-person or on Election Day. You'll need to bring one proof of residence, like your driver's license or a photo ID paired with a bill or lease.

MINNESOTA VOTING INFORMATION

Where can I find more information?



For more details on voting, you can visit mnvotes.gov, call 1-877-600-VOTE (8683), text 651-217-3862 or contact your county election office.

For more on the 2026 election, including candidates, maps and more, visit kaxe.org/election2026.

What is KAXE?



KAXE is a Northern Minnesota community radio station, founded in 1976. We have signals in Grand Rapids (91.7), Bemidji (90.5) and Brainerd (89.9), and our broadcast can be streamed at kaxe.org or on the NPR app.

KAXE News began in 2023, and our team of five journalists put together this Election Guide. The team includes News Director Chelsey Perkins, Northwest Minnesota Reporter Larissa Donovan, North-Central Minnesota Reporter Megan Buffington, Northeast Minnesota Reporter Emma Krab and Stella Mayerhoff, Report for America corps member covering water and agriculture.

Stay updated on local news across our region by listening to the *Up North Report*, our daily 5-minute newscast. You can find it at our website or on your favorite podcast app.

More about this KAXE Election Guide



KAXE's election guides inform people about voting and elections. We don't want to tell you how to vote, but we want to play a role in empowering you to vote by providing unbiased and trustworthy reporting.

Candidate responses have not been edited and are published as submitted.

As necessary, our News Team added contextual information and corrected inaccuracies, marked with editor's notes in italics.

KAXE contacted every candidate at least three times using contact information submitted to the Secretary of State's Office when they filed for office.

Please contact us at news@kaxe.org with questions or comments or to report any errors.

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

Read more on page 5

U.S. Senate



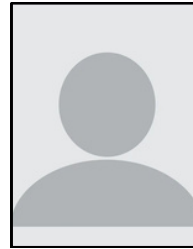
Peggy Flanagan
DFL
peggyflanagan.com



Michele Tafoya
Republican
micheletafoya.com



Marisa Simonetti
Independent
marisasimonetti.com



Rebecca Whiting
Libertarian
whiting4senate.us

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Governor



Lisa Demuth
Republican
lisaforMN.com



Amy Klobuchar
DFL
amyklobuchar.com



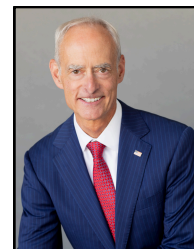
Steven Young
Green Party
steveformngov.info

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Attorney General



Keith Ellison
Incumbent
DFL
keithellison.org



Ronald J. Schutz
Republican
ronformnag.com

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

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Secretary of State



Tade Jude
Republican
tadjude.com



Steve Simon
Incumbent
DFL
stevesimonmn.com



Seth Kuhl-Stennes
Green Party
seth4mnsos.org



George "Chip" Tangen
Libertarian
chipforsos.com

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Auditor



Zack Filipovich
DFL
zackformn.com



Scott Jensen
Republican
drscottjensen.com



Jay Reeves
Forward
Independence
JayReevesforMN.com



Scan this QR code or visit
kaxe.org/electionguide for more election
coverage, including full candidate answers.

U.S. SENATE

Peggy Flanagan



Party: DFL
Age: 47
Community:
St. Louis Park

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Lt. Governor of Minnesota

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. My life taught me what's possible when people are given a fair shot. Public programs helped us get by, and I've spent my career fighting and delivering for Minnesotans so they have the same opportunities I did.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, I became the youngest person ever elected to the Minneapolis School Board, trained thousands of grassroots organizers through Wellstone Action, led the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, was a member of the Minnesota House, and now serve as Lieutenant Governor. When my daughter was a baby on my hip, I led the fight to raise wages. Then I fought to establish paid family

and medical leave, provide free school meals for kids, pass one of the nation's strongest child tax credits, and lower the cost of insulin. I'm honored to have retiring U.S. Senator Tina Smith's endorsement, who made the same journey from Lieutenant Governor to Senate.

Why are you running? I'm running for the U.S. Senate because I want to help Minnesotans afford the lives they want to live.

I grew up raised by a single mom, feeling like the bottom could fall out at any moment. We relied on programs like Section 8 housing, SNAP, childcare assistance, and Medicaid to get by. Too many Minnesotans are doing everything right and still falling behind.

That's why I will fight to pass Medicare for All and end prior authorization by insurance companies, raise the federal minimum wage, pass universal childcare, ban Wall Street from buying up neighborhoods, give farmers the right to repair their own equipment, and hold ICE accountable and fix our broken immigration system. And we've got to take on the special interests who are corrupting our government.

All of these efforts will put money back in Minnesotans' pockets and get us closer to the future we deserve.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. My top priority is making Congress work for working

people instead of corporations, billionaires, and special interests. That starts with banning corporate PAC money, getting dark money out of our elections, overturning Citizens United, and holding the powerful to higher ethical standards so our elected officials reflect the people they represent – not corporations. Second, I'll fight for Medicare for All because in the richest country on earth health care should be a human right. Until we get there, I'll fight to lower the cost of all prescription drugs, end insurance company abuses like prior authorization, and restore Medicaid cuts. Third, I'll be focused on helping Minnesotans afford the their lives by raising the federal minimum wage, making childcare affordable through universal childcare, investing in affordable housing, banning Wall Street from buying up homes and pricing families out, and protecting Social Security and eliminating the tax on benefits.

What immigration policies do you support? Our immigration system is broken and Donald Trump's cruel mass deportation agenda isn't fixing it. We saw what that looks like firsthand during Operation Metro Surge:

(continued on page 21)



Party: Republican
Age: 61
Community: Edina

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Many Minnesotans likely recognize me from my nearly three decades as a sideline reporter in sports broadcasting, where I worked for stations like KFAN as well as networks including CBS, ABC, ESPN, and NBC. Before announcing my candidacy for the U.S. Senate in January, I hosted my own political podcast. Since then, I have been campaigning full time across Minnesota, traveling the state, meeting voters in all 87 counties, and listening to the issues that matter most to them.

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. In my nearly three decades as a sports broadcast journalist, I was lucky to cover some of the biggest sports moments in America, including five Super Bowls and five Olympic Games. Those high-pressure environments—researching

Michele Tafoya

and reporting on the most powerful names in professional sports—taught me how to call it like I see it and dig deep for the facts. That same commitment to truth and tough questions is exactly what Minnesota needs in its next U.S. Senator.

I'm not a career politician. I'm an outsider who will challenge the status quo in Washington and fight for families who feel forgotten by the political class. I also earned my MBA from the University of Southern California, which strengthened my ability to analyze complex issues and deliver results.

Minnesotans deserve a Senator with real-world experience, proven integrity, and fresh perspective. I'm ready to bring that to the job.

Why are you running? I am running for the U.S. Senate to help restore integrity and reclaim Minnesota's reputation. Our state has become a national punchline for waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars. This is unacceptable. Minnesotans deserve better than the scandals that have damaged their trust. We need elected officials who will deliver real accountability and fiscal responsibility. I will make combating fraud my number one priority in the U.S. Senate.

Additionally, we need a U.S. Senator who will fight for secure borders, safe communities, and policies that put Minnesota families first. Minnesotans are ready for common-sense, principled representation in Washington that puts our state first. I am ready to provide that leadership.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals.

1. Combatting waste, fraud and abuse, because every dollar stolen by fraud is a dollar taken from hardworking Minnesotans who are already struggling with high costs. We must root out fraud, hold enablers accountable, and protect taxpayer money so we can deliver real affordability relief. I will immediately co-sponsor the Deporting Fraudsters Act.
2. Secure our elections so every legal vote counts and Minnesotans can trust the process. I will support the SAVE America Act.
3. Support law enforcement and keep our communities safe. This includes backing bills like the Laken Riley Act to give local agencies the tools they need to detain illegal immigrants.

Editor's note: The Laken Riley Act was signed into law in January 2025.

What immigration policies do you support? I will support common-sense immigration policies that put American workers and families first. Our current system has become too confusing and broken for people trying to do things the right way.

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U.S. SENATE



Party: Independent

Age: 33

Community:
Plymouth

Marisa Simonetti

Why are you running? To completely dismantle institutional hypocrisy, protect constitutional rights, and ensure the system works for the people rather than corporate monopolies.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. Defending the Bill of Rights against all forms of institutional overreach and modern surveillance. Closing constitutional loopholes that allow the state to exploit human labor, capital, or data. Restoring absolute legal transparency by making government frameworks open-source and fully accountable to the people.

What immigration policies do you support? Policies that prioritize absolute national sovereignty, legal clarity, and strict enforcement of constitutional borders while completely dismantling bureaucratic human trafficking loops and exploitation by corporate interests.

Many Minnesotans are struggling to afford their basic needs. How do you plan to help them? By breaking up state-sanctioned corporate monopolies that artificially inflate the cost of living, stopping the waste of public capital on performative bureaucracy, and ending the unfree prison labor systems that actively drag down the value of working-class wages.

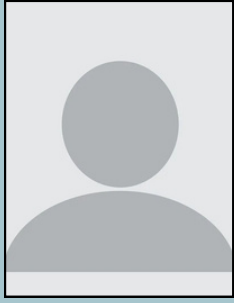
Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? CEO

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. Creative problem solver who builds statewide business assets and open-source systems independent of political establishment backing.

Know your voter's rights. You have the right to:

- Take time off work to vote, without losing your pay, personal leave or vacation time.
- Vote if you are in line to vote anytime before 8 p.m.
- Register to vote on Election Day if you can show the required proof of residence.
- Bring your children with you to vote.
- Ask anyone for help, except for an agent of your employer or union. A voter who requires assistance in marking a ballot, by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, may be given assistance to do so by a person of the voter's choice, other than the employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.
- Vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction, even if you are on probation or parole, or have other conditions like restitution.
- File a written complaint at your polling place if you are unhappy with the way an election is being run.

U.S. SENATE



Party: Libertarian
Age: 45
Community:
Bemidji

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Farmer, Owner of Dirty Goat Farm & Bakery

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. US Army veteran, Iraq war combat veteran, board member Bemidji's Natural Choice Farmers Market, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota, homeschooling mom

Rebecca Whiting

Why are you running? I am running to stop the forever wars and be a voice of the people from a working class perspective to address concerns that are hurting our economic futures like the national debt, inflation, and the destruction of the US dollar.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. Anti-war- ending the forever wars, upholding the Constitutional authority to declare war. Passing a national Defend the Guard bill which allows the national guard to only be used in combat if Congress has declared war.

National debt- helping slow down the increase of the national debt and balancing the national budget.

Ending the police state- Against policies that use tax payer dollars to fund data centers, flock cameras, and any other surveillance infrastructure used to monitor and catalog people.

What immigration policies do you support? Reforming the process to obtain citizenship or legal work authorization making it free and fast.

Many Minnesotans are struggling to afford their basic needs. How do you plan to help them? By focusing on economic solutions and stopping the destruction of the dollar. We need to stop the regulatory burdens on small producers, the taxes/tariffs on imported goods, and work towards agriculture independence by supporting regenerative practices, beef producers, and small family farms.

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NEWS

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MINNESOTA GOVERNOR

Lisa Demuth



Party: Republican

Age: 59

Community:

Cold Spring

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. I'm a mother of four, grandmother of seven, business owner, lifelong Minnesotan, and Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Before entering the legislature 7 years ago I served on my community's school board for three terms. As House Speaker I led the charge to expose fraud of our tax dollars and stop the out-of-control tax and spending that Democrats pushed on Minnesotans when they had total control of government. I'm running for governor to save our state after 16 years of failed Democrat leadership in the executive branch. I am not a career politician, but I have the leadership skills and experience to fight for Minnesotans and return our

state to a place where families can afford their lives.

Why are you running? I'm running for governor to end the fraud of our tax dollars, restore fiscal sanity to our state and make Minnesota affordable after too many years of the Walz/Klobuchar status quo. When Tim Walz and his Democrat allies had total control of our state government in 2023 and 2024, they raised our taxes by tens of billions of dollars, increased our state budget by nearly 40% and engaged in divisive, partisan overreach that has hurt our families and businesses. When I became House Speaker last year, I led the charge to stop fraud, stop tax increases and reduce our state budget by \$5 billion. I'm ready to lead Minnesota's Comeback. I recently released my affordability plan, which you can read at my website.

Editor's note: The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce estimated in 2024 that Minnesota increased taxes over the next four years by \$10 billion, pointing to increased corporate taxes and a 1% tax on investment income over \$1 million.

Why should voters elect you? Minnesotans are sick of their tax dollars being wasted on bad policy and stolen by fraudsters. As governor I will fire those responsible for the fraud. I'll cut taxes for working families and businesses, end social security taxes for our seniors, preserve girls' sports and support public safety to make our streets safe again. I'll put a stop to the divisive ideology that has taken root in too many classrooms,

and focus on delivering a quality education for children. I will also ensure we finally pass voter ID to help protect the integrity of our elections. I'll restore an economic environment across our state where people choose to stay to start and grow a family or a business.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. Lower taxes. Stop fraud and government waste. Help make Minnesota competitive and affordable again for businesses and families.

Minnesota families afford their lives will be my top priority as governor. I will work to cut income taxes for families by reducing the lowest two tax brackets, dial back expensive car tab fees that were raised by Democrats, and finally end taxes on social security benefits for our seniors. I will also push to require that state surplus dollars be returned to the taxpayers who paid them, because a budget surplus should not be an excuse for politicians to spend more money. Read more about my priorities as governor at lisaformn.com

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MINNESOTA GOVERNOR



Party: DFL
Age: 66
Community:
Minneapolis

Amy Klobuchar

where I took on violent crime and fraud. In the Senate, I've been ranked #1 for bipartisan bills and #3 out of 100 for passing bills into law. I'll deliver results as governor.

Why are you running? I love Minnesota, and I want to get to work improving people's lives. I'm not interested in the status quo – I want to be a transformative governor. That means making state government more effective, innovative, and accountable, including rooting out fraud and stopping it before it starts. It means lowering costs for Minnesotans who are paying too much for health care, child care, and housing. And it means keeping Minnesota competitive by investing in economic development in rural areas, completing high-speed broadband, expanding workforce training and apprenticeships, and supporting K-12 schools across our state by boosting student achievement and keeping students on task by banning cellphones in classrooms and reducing screentime.

I will stand up for what's right and fix what's wrong. I have a long record of bringing Minnesotans together to get things done and deliver results, and that's what I will do as your governor.

Why should voters elect you? I'm committed to getting things done that will improve Minnesotans' lives. As your Senator, every year I visit all of Minnesota's 87 counties. I've worked extensively with leaders in the Brainerd, Bemidji and Grand Rapids areas. We need to help families struggling to pay for health care, find affordable child care, or buy a home.

That means cutting red tape and working with the private sector to build more housing in northern Minnesota, expanding access to affordable childcare, and taking on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices.

I'll also launch a top-to-bottom audit of state agencies to root out fraud and make sure the money coming out of your paycheck is not misspent. I'll strengthen criminal penalties and require surprise in-person inspections.

I'll focus on strengthening student achievement in our schools and I'll work with businesses to expand our economy and create good-paying jobs that reward hard work.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. I will make our state government more accountable to Minnesotans, stop fraud before it starts, and make sure that your tax dollars aren't misspent. I'll work to lower costs for Minnesotans. Too many families are struggling to pay for health care, to find affordable child care, or to buy their first home. I'll support rural hospitals and take on Big Pharma, expand child care, and work with the private

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Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? US Senator

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. With roots in Northern Minnesota, I am the granddaughter of an iron ore miner and the daughter of a teacher and a newspaperman who taught me trust is earned by showing up and working hard.

I've never shied away from taking on the tough fights. I got involved in politics after John and I had our daughter, Abigail. She couldn't swallow and was in intensive care, but I was discharged from the hospital after just 24 hours because of insurance rules. I became the leading advocate for one of the country's first laws guaranteeing 48-hour hospital stays for new moms and babies.

After years in the private sector, I ran Minnesota's largest prosecutor's office,

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR

Steven Young



Party: Green Party

Age: 42

Community:
Minneapolis

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Metro Transit, Light Rail Operator

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. Twelve years in the USMC. 9 Years as a lawyer (with a bit of teaching of international law). 1-ish year of anti-ICE activism.

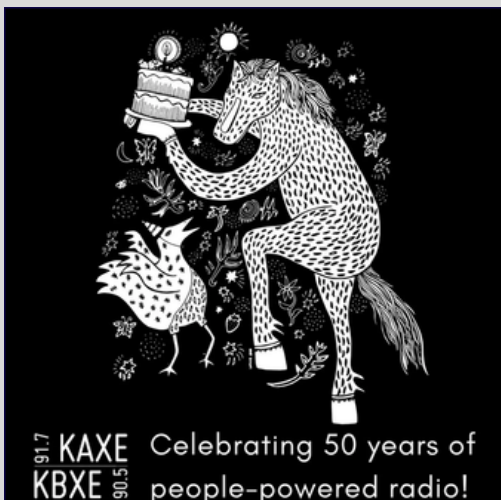
Why are you running? I am running as an alternative to the two corporate parties who are complicit in the ICE invasion of our state this winter. I am running for those who have nothing left to lose, and have a world to win. I am running to save the environment, and our neighbors with a green jobs, and green defense program to keep us all safe from federal over reach.

Why should voters elect you? So that justice can be meted out to ICE. So that the mutual aid-based revolution that sprung forth this winter in response to ICE's invasion, can be supported and endorsed by the government. So that the local government doesn't fail you when the feds come knocking.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. Justice for our neighbors who were stolen and/or

murdered. I will pursue ICE (and their collaborators with extreme prejudice). Unified defense against federal over reach. Neighborhood-based, state-backed defense to ensure that our neighbors aren't kidnapped. Green jobs. Save the environment, juice the economy by paying tons of folks to fix all the shit that's falling apart.

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs? I will stop outsourcing state-run programs to unaccountable private organizations. State funds will only be spent by accountable state personnel.



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MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL



Party: DFL
Age: 63
Community:
North Minneapolis

Keith Ellison

Powerful and well-connected corporations are doing everything they can - including breaking the law - to squeeze every last dollar out of Minnesota families.

Trump's corrupt federal government is stealing money meant for Minnesota's schools, healthcare, roads and bridges, and more. Minnesotans need a fighter in their corner now more than ever. I've taken on tough fights and won, and I'm running for a third term to keep fighting for the state I love.

Why should voters elect you? Voters should elect me because I've got a proven record of bringing down costs for Minnesota families. As Attorney General, I've taken on price-gouging insulin makers, hedge fund landlords, and price-fixing meatpackers who were illegally driving up prices for medicine, housing, and groceries - and won.

And I've been taking on fraud. Since day one, I've secured over 350 fraud convictions, which is a conviction every 8 days. I run one of the most effective Medicaid fraud-fighting units in the country and I just led the passage of a major fraud-fighting bill that will increase penalties and give us new tools to convict fraudsters and recover our tax dollars.

And I've been standing up to Trump's dangerous abuse of power. Trump has tried to cut money from Minnesota childcare, healthcare, public schools, road and bridge repair, natural disaster preparedness, and I've protected over \$7.3 billion in funding from illegal cuts.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals.

1.) Continue helping Minnesotans afford their lives by taking on unlawful behavior driving up prices for Minnesota families. Minnesotans deserve better than to be pushed around by the wealthy, powerful, and well-connected.

2.) Continue prosecuting fraud and violent crime to protect the people of Minnesota. Our fraud-fighting team regularly ranks as one of the best in the nation, and I want to continue building on that success.

3.) Continue protecting the people of Minnesota from Donald Trump's dangerous overreach and abuse of power. President Trump is committed to waging war on Minnesota, and I will do everything I can do to defend our state from him.

Why should voters trust you to address the widespread fraud in state-run programs?

Voters should trust me because I've run one of the most effective fraud-fighting teams in the nation. My Medicaid Fraud Control Unit regularly ranks as one of the best in the nation - we average 5th in the nation when it comes to the number of fraud

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Office of the Minnesota Attorney General; Attorney General

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. It's the honor of a lifetime to have been elected to serve as Minnesota's Attorney General for two terms.

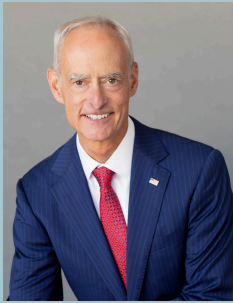
During that time, I've worked hard to help Minnesotans afford their lives, prosecuted hundreds of fraudsters, sent violent criminals to prison, took on corporations that have been breaking the law and harming Minnesotans, especially our children, and stood up to the Trump administration when they've targeted our state.

Why are you running? I'm running to help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect, and there's more work to be done.

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MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ronald J. Schutz



Party: Republican
Age: did not answer
Community:
Medina

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Schutz PLLC-lawyer

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. I was the Chairman of a 200 lawyer national litigation firm. At the beginning of my career I was a prosecutor in the US Army JAG Corps.

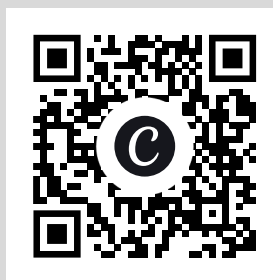
Why are you running? To restore integrity to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and put the interests of the people of Minnesota above politics.

Why should voters elect you? Minnesota deserves to have one of the best lawyers in the country as their Attorney General and not a career politician who is only interested in generating headlines and who has turned a blind eye to the massive fraud and corruption that permeates our State Government.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. Prosecute fraudsters, Support law enforcement. Restore fairness in girls sports by keeping biological males from competing against girls.

Why should voters trust you to address the widespread fraud in state-run programs? Unlike the current Attorney General, I've spent my career in the courtroom and know how to win.

Looking for local candidates? Visit the link below for guides to congressional, state Legislature, county, school board and city candidates.



kaxe.org/electionguide

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE



Party: Republican
Age: 74
Community:
Maple Grove

Tad Jude

created. I am running because I am ready to step into this office on day one and secure the vote for every Minnesotan.

Why are you running? Minnesotans deserve elections they can trust, tax dollars that are protected, and a flag that reflects our heritage. These are the reasons I am running for Secretary of State. Minnesotans care deeply about voting, and yet we have some of the most relaxed voting laws and regulations in the country. Steve Simon doesn't require a photo ID at the polls to vote, he allows for "vouching" and refuses to use the more robust federal SAVE voter database. Securing the vote for every Minnesotan is my highest priority. I will also stop fraud tourism in Minnesota. On day one, I will launch a dedicated task force to reform the registration process and detect fraudulent businesses before they ever scam a single dollar. Finally, I'm running to give Minnesotans an up-or-down vote on bringing back the 1983 traditional Minnesota flag. Minnesotans deserve to be heard on this issue.

Editor's note: Minnesota does not require a photo ID to vote if someone's voter registration is current and active. Proof of residence is needed to register to vote, to update registration or if someone has not voted in four or more years. A registered voter from the same precinct can "vouch" as a form of proof of registration, signing an oath confirming another voter's address.

Why should voters elect you?

I'm asking for Minnesotans' vote because I have the passion for securing our elections and the skills and experience to do the job. The Secretary of State's office is not a place for on-the-job training. There is simply too much at stake. Every law enacted is there because of what happened at the ballot box, making secure elections the foundation of a good government. Some reforms require working with the legislature. I've been a legislator. Some reforms will require challenging or defending regulations in court, and I've been a judge and an attorney. Every Minnesotan needs to be able to trust the vote. I am uniquely qualified to make sure they can.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals.

Three specific goals I am running to accomplish as Secretary of State are to secure the vote, put an end to fraud tourism in Minnesota, and secure a vote to restore the Minnesota 1983 traditional flag. Restoring election integrity is a process that must be addressed through regulation, statutory change, and possibly through the courts.

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Attorney, Self-Employed

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. My experience as a legislator, district court judge, attorney, and small business owner makes me uniquely qualified to serve as Minnesota's Secretary of State. Election law spans the city, county, state, and federal levels, and when disputes arise, they are often settled in court. As a legislator, I have written laws, interpreted them as an attorney, and ruled on them as a judge. My experience gives me insight into what needs to change to improve election integrity in Minnesota, and how to get these reforms enacted into law. I am also a small business owner and understand the importance of making it easy for honest businesses to register, and as a taxpayer, the need to prevent fraudulent businesses from being

(continued on page 23)

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Steve Simon



Party: DFL

Age: did not answer

Community:
Hopkins

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Minnesota Secretary of State

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. Before becoming Minnesota Secretary of State in 2015, I served in the Minnesota House, where I focused on improving our election system and chaired the Elections Committee. I successfully enacted many election reforms, including the law allowing all eligible voters to vote from home. As Secretary of State, I've helped Minnesota lead the nation in voter turnout for multiple elections, and I'm proud that we were recently recognized as the best state in America for overall election performance.

Editor's note: Minnesota ranked No. 1 in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Elections Performance Index for 2024.

Why are you running? My family fled to the United States from a country in which they were not allowed to vote, which is why free and fair elections are so important to me. I've served in office since my first election to the Minnesota House in 2004. During my legislative service, I focused on improvements to our election system and eventually served as Chair of the Elections Committee. I've served as Secretary of State since 2014 and I'm the best equipped candidate to keep Minnesota a national leader in election participation and integrity. My mission is simple: protecting the freedom to vote.

Why should voters elect you?

As Minnesota Secretary of State, I have repeatedly and successfully overseen elections that are fair, accurate, honest, and secure. Working with partners across the state, I've helped Minnesota lead the nation in voter turnout for multiple elections, and I'm proud that we were recently recognized as the top state in America for overall election performance based on both voter access and security. I wrote the law giving eligible Minnesotans the option to vote from home, and I've championed reforms that make Minnesota a national model, leading to high voter confidence in the integrity of our elections.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. My mission is to defend and strengthen the freedom to vote for

every eligible Minnesota. I'll keep pushing back against unjustified federal interference in our elections and I'll protect voters' private, sensitive information from the Justice Department. I'll also keep fighting against assaults on the longstanding bipartisan reforms that have made Minnesota the envy of the nation, like same-day voter registration and the option to vote from home. I'll push for even greater transparency and for more opportunities to connect voters with information about the election system.

Do you support Voter ID laws? Why or why not? I support Minnesota's current law requiring all eligible voters registering to vote to show that they are who they say they are and they live where they say they live. The list of items Minnesotans can use to demonstrate either of those things is broad and flexible, going beyond merely a government-issued photo ID. That system has made our system highly secure and trustworthy. Minnesotans a few years ago rejected a less flexible system that would have limited the items that voters could use to show identity or residency.

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE



Party: Green
Age: 42
Community:
Minneapolis

Seth Kuhl-Stennes

being selected as a steward with UFCW. I have a combined 20 years of work experience in cooperatives, for-profit businesses, and nonprofits as well as 16 years of board of directors service with cooperatives, nonprofits, and political organizations.

Why are you running? I am running as a Secretary of State candidate for the residents and voters of Minnesota, not any corporate or special interests. I am not running against any particular candidate or political party in the race, though I will not back down from challenging my competitors and standing up for my values and the issues I care deeply about.

I am running as a Green Party candidate on a platform that elevates the Green Party's 4 pillars of Social & Economic Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, and Ecological Wisdom. I will connect those values to the work of the Secretary of State's Office to better serve our democracy and economy in MN.

Why should voters elect you? I am an independent candidate (outside the 2 major parties in MN) endorsed by the Green Party and am running on a set of issues that ties into their values and the work of the Secretary of State's Office. I do not accept donations from for profit or nonprofit corporations, Political Action Committees (PACs) or lobbyists, and only accept donations from individuals. So, I am not beholden to any sort of corporate or special interest. I will be responsive to Minnesota voters and businesses and

will work to take measures to strengthen our state's democratic institutions and economy.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. My top 3 priorities (in no particular order) are:

INSTITUTE AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM THAT HONORS THE WILL OF MN VOTERS through adopting proportional representation for the MN House and ranked choice voting for MN executive branch offices, allowing cities and counties to use these methods for electing multi-member and single-seat local officials, and moving to direct election of the US President by ranked choice voting.

ADVOCATE FOR STATE & GLOBAL WELL-BEING by divesting from weapons manufacturers, genocidal nations, nuclear power and fossil fuel extraction, animal harm, and any such companies that profit from those actions and shifting those state investments into entities that uphold peace, human rights, ecological health, and animal welfare.

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Land Stewardship Project, Operations Specialist

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. I am a life-long Minnesotan and care deeply about the well-being of my community, Minnesota businesses and workers, and our democratic institutions. I was born and raised in Baudette, earned a degree in Political Science from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University near St. Cloud, and have resided in the Twin Cities area since 2006.

I have 7 years of union workplace involvement as an active member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 663 and The Office of Professional Employees International Union Local 12 serving on contract bargaining teams and Labor Management Committees at each and

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MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

George “Chip” Tangen



Party: Libertarian

Age: 62

Community:

Inver Grove Heights

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role?

I am a relationship manager at Enterprise Minnesota, a consulting firm that helps manufacturing enterprises grow profitably.

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office.

My political science and law degrees, from Middlebury College and the University of Minnesota, respectively, are highly relevant to the position. As the chief election officer, the Secretary of State must be mindful of history and legal precedent, draw inspiration from other states and countries, and have the aptitude to navigate the complicated statutes and rules that govern our elections.

Additionally, through my experience, I know how the system works and where improvements must be made.

My most pivotal professional experience was on Capitol Hill, where I served as legislative counsel to U.S. Representative Jim Ramstad, a rare Member of Congress that worked across party lines to get things done. For the past decade, I've been an active member of the Libertarian Party, testifying regularly at the state capitol on election reform measures.

Why are you running? Structurally, we need to begin electing Secretaries of State who are unaffiliated with the two major parties so that all Minnesota voters have confidence in our election system. Additionally, I will passionately pursue reforms that enable voters to have more options on their ballots. Many Minnesotans have told me they don't vote because they refuse to settle for the "lesser of two evils." I don't want to see any Minnesotans checked out on the sidelines.

Why should voters elect you? At age 62, the position I seek is not a stepping stone for another office. I want to apply my life experience to this office. This office needs an independent perspective. A Republican or a Democrat does not have the mindset, or perhaps the freedom, to entertain or pursue needed reforms.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. I will remove obstacles that restrict our options on the ballot.

1) The Secretary of State should maintain a secure portal to collect signatures for candidate nominating petitions. This long overdue

modernization step will end the disenfranchisement of signers with messy handwriting, respect their privacy, and accommodate persons with disabilities.

2) I will not affix the Great Seal of Minnesota on a governor's writ of special election that needlessly limits the time period in which signatures can be collected, and I will urge the legislature to lengthen the time for collecting signatures in general elections and reduce signature thresholds.

3) I will urge enactment of HF 3534, the Minor Party Ballot Access bill. Minnesota is one of seventeen states that recognizes major and minor political parties that meet statutory tests of viability, and yet we are the only state that does not confer ballot access to candidates of minor parties.

Do you support Voter ID laws? Why or why not? It is in everyone's interest to present proper identification when voting, as it ensures that a voter who is matched to the voting roll is an eligible voter. However, I would be profoundly dismayed if any truly eligible voter is denied the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote, for any reason.

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MINNESOTA AUDITOR



Party: DFL
Age: 36
Community:
Duluth

Zack Filipovich

Why are you running? I'm running to help local governments succeed and ensure public dollars deliver results for Minnesota's communities. The State Auditor's Office oversees \$56 billion across 3,400 local government units. The role is to ensure that our communities, from rural townships and big cities, to counties and school districts, have the tools, data, and oversight they need to make the best decisions to move forward. This office audits the local public dollars closest to each of us. I've seen what happens when local governments have the technical resources to succeed and I've seen the consequences of when they're left behind. We need confidence that our local dollars will be there when needed.

Why should voters elect you? The State Auditor helps local governments share best practices and ensure that the local tax dollars funding schools, public safety, infrastructure, and community services are being used for those purposes. Accounting is my profession. I'm the only candidate to have worked in a local government accounting office, adhering to governmental auditing standards (GAS) to help keep local public dollars safe. I bring experience in oversight, internal controls and accountability. I'll be ready on day one to ensure every local tax dollar is accounted for and working for us.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. I'm focused on protecting taxpayer dollars through strong oversight, guidance and accountability:

Accountability: Protecting taxpayer dollars through strong oversight, internal controls, and guidance to prevent fraud at the local level.

Strengthening Communities: Ensuring local governments rural townships to big cities have the data, training, and resources they need to make the best decisions for their own communities.

Transparency: Increasing transparency at every step through a commitment to public engagement with open houses and forums in every corner of the state. The Office can act as a partner that provides technical assistance, education, financial oversight, best practices, and transparent reporting. The OSA helps ensure that the local tax dollars funding schools, public safety, infrastructure, and community services are managed responsibly and effectively.

What changes, if any, do you think need to be made to the state auditor's office? I'll take a more proactive approach to oversight, helping local finance officials identify weak points in their processes and strengthening internal controls and guardrails against fraud.

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Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Finance Manager

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. This job is all about building a government that works for people. As the only accountant in the race, I bring a proven track record of fiscal responsibility. Financial statements tell the story of our values and how they can help us make better decisions. As a Certified Management Accountant, I know what it takes to hold people and organizations accountable. I have over a decade of experience managing budgets, overseeing compliance and strengthening internal controls to prevent fraud. As a finance manager and former Duluth City Councilor, I've worked with local governments across Minnesota to understand and solve the challenges they face.

MINNESOTA AUDITOR

Scott Jensen



Party: Republican

Age: 71

Community:
Chaska (Carver Co.)

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Catalyst Medical Clinic, Founder/Physician

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office.

I have multiple degrees and advanced certifications from the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas. Additionally, for 40 years I served in positions that extensively prepared me to execute the duties of the OSA. I served as the Audit Chair for a \$1B financial institution for more than a decade. I've demonstrated executive guidance by serving on boards for accountants, banks, my local school district, and multiple Chambers of Commerce shaping financial decisions and ensuring transparency. In the MN Senate I was a strong champion and chief author of health care legislation focusing on transparency and ensuring life-saving

medication availability. I founded and operated multiple successful businesses and medical clinics. My years as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of MN provides me with an ideal background and skillset to support local governments with financial best practices, internal controls, and compliance. <https://www.drscottjensen.com/about.html>

Why are you running? I firmly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected.

The State Auditor role is about public service and leadership - particularly in human services and healthcare which underscores the fact that my skill-set as both a physician and former Vice Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee uniquely qualify me for this position.

Minnesotans have endured years of waste, fraud, and abuse which has been allowed to proceed virtually unchecked by our own government leaders. No more! I understand that we have a trust problem in this state. The only way to restore that trust is for leaders like me to continue to stand in the gap and hold people accountable. I have demonstrated bold leadership throughout my years as a husband, father, business owner, state senator, and a board member. I look forward to bringing that bold servant leadership back to St. Paul.

Why should voters elect you? With bold courage I stood up for Minnesotans speaking truth to power during the COVID years and

confronting the Tim Walz/Keith Ellison look-the-other-way era of fraudulent lying, cheating, and stealing. I put everything on the line - my livelihood, my license, my reputation - in order to defend free speech and health freedom for all. I am the most experienced and qualified leader in this race and the most electable candidate - with nearly a million social media followers, huge name recognition, and a history of record-setting fundraising! The lack of effective leadership in MN government is the true crisis of our time. I will disrupt the current sloppy culture of chaos by building a disciplined team of mission-driven financial experts, forensic investigators, and AI specialists to ensure the protection of Minnesotans' hard-earned paychecks, the restoration of fiscal integrity, and accountable compliance with the law.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals.

If given the privilege of serving as Minnesota State Auditor, I would seek to accomplish the following goals::

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MINNESOTA AUDITOR

Jay Reeves

**Party:**

Forward Independence

Age: 51**Community:**

Victoria

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? US Army Retired Major

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. My prior experience and education include:

1. Nearly 17 years of Military Leadership (Retired Major)
2. Master of Health Informatics Degree (University of MN) with a concentration in Data Analytics and Data Visualizations
3. Led a team to create world-wide interactive data dashboard used by the DHA, Pentagon, and Whitehouse
4. Continuous process improvement and standardization expert with training through the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt program
5. Managed and led teams, departments, and divisions with hundreds of civilians and Service Members from across

the world on some of the largest IT projects in the history of the Military Health System

Why are you running? I am running to protect the hard-earned tax dollars of all Minnesotans that have felt the burdens placed on them by increased taxes while fraudsters continue to rob us, blindly. We all pay into these social programs and having access to them when we need them is mandated, not optional. I am sick and tired of seeing the most vulnerable among us continue to be taken advantage of while our elected officials sit on the sidelines and argue about who to blame. I am running to bring Minnesotans a voice and represent them, not some political ideology.

Why should voters elect you? I have the experience to lead the OSA into the 21st century starting on day one! I am going to bring a proactive approach to our reactive system and bring trust, accountability, and transparency back to our government. Minnesotans deserve better! And I am, without question, the best candidate to lead that office.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. This is a three step process:

1. We will work with all pertinent state agencies to implement a more streamlined reporting systems that will help local governments succeed and expedite audits
2. Then, from those inputs from the

local governments, and others, we will leverage cutting-edge technology to detect fraud in real-time

3. Lastly, that data will be fed into a fully interactive OSA website, so data is accessible to everyone. Full transparency, as the law permits.

What changes, if any, do you think need to be made to the state auditor's office?

The OSA needs to be a proactive agency, not a reactive one. Their technology is significantly outdated, and it needs a leader with the expertise to make that happen. There needs to be someone truly qualified to lead that office, not a figurehead. Further, the office needs a leader that is going to refocus on the mission of protecting taxpayer dollars and communicating with Minnesotans about their findings. Minnesotans deserve transparency and accountability. We will give that to Minnesotans. Lastly, we will remove all doubt as to possible or implied partisan bias by remaining truly independent. We will not engage in hot button political issues that are outside of the purview of the Office of the State Auditor. We have to rebuild the lost trust of Minnesotans. I am the candidate to do that.

ANSWERS CONTINUED

Peggy Flanagan (continued)

families torn apart, legal residents and American citizens detained, communities terrorized, children taken, and two Minnesotans killed. We deserve better. We can have a secure border and effective immigration enforcement without sacrificing due process or human dignity. We should modernize our immigration system, invest in border technology and staffing, reduce backlogs, and create a pathway to legal status and citizenship for people who have built their lives, families, and businesses here. We must honor our commitment to refugees and asylum seekers fleeing violence and persecution through a fair and lawful process. Immigration has always been part of Minnesota's story – immigrants make our communities stronger. We need a system that is humane and rooted in safety, dignity, due process, and the rule of law.

Many Minnesotans are struggling to afford their basic needs. How do you plan to help them?

Too many Minnesotans are working harder than ever but still falling behind because corporations, billionaires, and special interests have too much power over our politics. We have too many politicians on both sides of the aisle who are funded by the same industries driving up the costs of everything. Donald Trump and Republicans have taken funding for health care and food assistance away from working families to pay for tax breaks for billionaires, while spending billions expanding ICE and funding endless wars. I'm fighting for Medicare for All, lower prescription drug costs, universal childcare, raising the federal minimum wage, protecting Social Security, right to repair for farmers, and banning Wall Street from buying up homes and pricing families out because people deserve more than politicians telling them to settle for less. Minnesotans deserve leaders with the courage to take on powerful interests and actually lower the cost of living.

Michele Tafoya (continued)

I will fight to secure our southern border, enforce our immigration laws, and end catch-and-release. I do not support amnesty. As your Senator, I'll work to restore order, protect Minnesota communities and resources, and ensure our immigration is fair, lawful, and serves the interests of the people of Minnesota.

Minnesotans deserve safety and sovereignty, and I'm ready to deliver both.

Many Minnesotans are struggling to afford their basic needs. How do you plan to help them?

Affordability is crushing Minnesota families, from groceries to gas to unaffordable housing and energy bills. I will never vote for reckless spending bills like the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act" that drove up costs for working families. Instead, I'll fight to cut the costly federal regulations that strangle small businesses, discourage hiring, and raise prices on everything.

We must also unleash American energy production to lower energy costs and keep dollars in Minnesota pockets instead of overseas.

As your Senator, I'll bring the same straight-talking, no nonsense approach I used as a journalist to Washington. Hold the line on spending, reduce government overreach, and put Minnesota families first. You deserve a Senator who fights for lower costs and real relief.

ANSWERS CONTINUED

Lisa Demuth (continued)

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs?

When I'm governor, I will fire Walz commissioners and replace them with best-in-class leaders in relevant areas of expertise. And if they don't perform, or if fraud continues, they will be fired immediately. My administration will continue the work I fought for as House Speaker, which includes establishing a Fraud Prevention Committee and passing bill to create an independent Office of Inspector General. This new office will operate independently from the executive branch and have future law enforcement authority to clamp down on Minnesota's rampant fraud. The new OIG will be responsible for investigating state agencies, grant recipients, and contractors. It also will have subpoena power and the authority to freeze or stop distribution of funds under court order. Read more about my Fraud Prevention plan at lisaformn.com/fraud-prevention-plan/

Amy Klobuchar (continued)

sector to build more homes. And I'll be laser focused on expanding our economy and workforce. Anybody willing to work should have a path to success and a good job, which is why I will partner with the private sector, colleges, and local businesses to create 10,000 more apprenticeships, raise achievement in our schools, and expand pathways to degrees that connect directly to in-demand careers.

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs?

When I ran Minnesota's largest prosecutor's office, I took on fraud and corruption, and I will bring that approach and more to tackling fraud as governor. On day one, I'll begin a top-to-bottom audit of our state government to identify fraud, waste, and abuse. We need to stop fraud before it starts. That means vetting grants and contracts before state funds are awarded, and in-person, unannounced inspections. I will create a "Do Not Pay" database to automatically and permanently ban anyone convicted of fraud against state programs from receiving any grants and contracts. And I'll replace decades-old state payment and IT systems with new technology. to prevent, detect, and stop fraud. We also need to strengthen criminal penalties and extend the statute of limitations for fraud in all state programs, not just Medicaid.

Keith Ellison (continued)

convictions we've secured on average. My fraud-fighting team has secured over 350 Medicaid fraud convictions since I was first elected - that's a conviction every 8 days.

I also led the charge to pass the Medicaid Assistance Protection Act (MAP Act). This bill increases penalties for Medicaid fraud, increases the number of fraud investigators in my office, and strengthens state anti-fraud laws.

Tad Jude (continued)

As Secretary of State, I would use the SAVE voter database, which is more comprehensive than the one Minnesota currently uses, and work with partners at every level of government to ensure the accuracy of our voter rolls. I would address fraud by deploying banking-industry technologies and methodologies to identify connections among fraudulent businesses. On day one, I will fly the 1983 Minnesota flag in my office and begin the process of securing a vote to restore the flag.

Editor's note: While the secretary of state may advocate for legislation, changes to the state flag are made by the state Legislature.

Do you support Voter ID laws? Why or why not?

I support requiring a photo ID to vote. Voting is the bedrock of our government. Every law that is passed that touches you or your family is enacted because of an election. And because of the significance of our elections, the entire process needs to be safeguarded, including the requirement of a photo ID. If you tried to open a bank account, lease an apartment, or purchase certain cold medicines, you would be asked to produce a photo ID. The idea that a photo ID isn't required to vote is hard to understand when it is commonly required for so many daily activities. The American public overwhelmingly supports requiring photo IDs to vote because it is a simple and effective way to help protect our elections.

Seth Kuhl-Stennes (continued)

FOSTER A HEALTHY MN BUSINESS & WORKER ENVIRONMENT by facilitating the growth of cooperatives, credit unions, and community land trusts and honoring employers that provide living wages, practice just-cause employment, and support the right to unionize.

Editor's note: The Secretary of State does not directly manage the state of Minnesota's investments. They are a member of the Minnesota State Board of Investments, which monitors and evaluates the state's investments.

Do you support Voter ID laws? Why or why not?

I do not support voter ID laws. Voter ID laws create more barriers to voting. While I believe election integrity is an important matter, voter fraud is incredibly rare in the state of Minnesota, and we have other safeguards in place to prevent ineligible voters from casting a ballot and to investigate election-related crime.

George "Chip" Tangen (continued)

Therefore, I would oppose an absolute requirement to furnish identification as a condition of casting a vote. That said, if there are questions about the eligibility of voters, then their ballots should be placed in a sealed envelope and not tabulated until their eligibility can be verified. Such provisional voting is practiced in most U.S. and has enabled citizens to vote in states that don't allow voters to register on election day. In Minnesota, we should insist on maximum voting opportunities and high standards for electoral security.

Zack Filipovich (continued)

This also includes conducting more efficient and timely audits by reducing the turnover rate of the State Auditor's office itself. I am also committed to providing the background behind the data, holding open houses and forums to ensure transparency at every step. I will work to improve resource sharing, address the critical shortage of finance professionals, and build on how the office provides data and guidance.

Scott Jensen (continued)

Successfully collaborate with the legislative auditor, MMB Commissioner, all branches of government, and the Office of the Inspector General in constructing a clearly defined system of fiscal accountability without gaps in responsibilities (which too often promotes a blame-game mentality.)

Dramatically reduce impact and frequency of unfunded mandates imposed on local counties, cities, towns, and school districts.

Create pathways for all Minnesotans to help stop fraud, protect whistleblowers, and support a statewide initiative regarding government programs that calls for all people to live by the creed; "if you see something, say something!"

Editor's note: While the state auditor may advocate for legislation, changes to state mandates are made by the state Legislature.

What changes, if any, do you think need to be made to the state auditor's office?

The state auditor's role focuses on providing support to local municipalities regarding compliance with operational standards and statutory policies. Specific changes that need to be made to optimize efficacy of the auditor's role to support fiscal integrity and good governance include:

- 1) Renewed understanding that the auditor operates independently and reports to all stakeholders
- 2) Broaden collaboration with the Legislative Auditor
- 3) Publicly shine a spotlight on emerging issues of concern
- 4) Ongoing acknowledgment that the auditor is the citizens' watchdog to make certain that taxpayer dollars are used lawfully, efficiently, and transparently
- 5) Aggressively support cities, towns, counties, and school districts by publicly identifying unfunded mandates and the harms they cause.

MINNESOTA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Ballot language: Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?

The constitutional amendment asks voters to increase the amount withdrawn each year from the Permanent School Fund from 2.5% to 4.5%.

The Permanent School Fund is a Minnesota education fund that comes from school trust lands, which are public lands set aside in 1858 with the explicit purpose of generating funds for Minnesota schools. The fund provides money to Minnesota public and charter schools on a per pupil basis across the state. It does not affect income or property taxes, and the state does not impose limitations on how schools may use the funds.

The current total market value of the fund is \$2.4 billion, according to the Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands. About \$1 billion of this is the “principle,” which includes revenue from mining, forestry, real estate and agriculture, among other industries.

The state constitution requires the state to hold the trust in perpetuity, which means it cannot be distributed in an unsustainable way without incurring legal action. Supporters of the amendment report the fund is growing by an average of 8% annually, and they say the adjustment to 4.5% would bring the trust in line with modern management standards.

A majority of “yes” votes is required for the amendment to pass. Blank responses will count as “no” votes.