

ELECTION GUIDE

2026 PRIMARY



STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

In this guide:

U.S. Senator: Democrats	4
U.S. Senator: Republicans.....	11
Minnesota Governor: Democrats.....	18
Minnesota Governor: Republicans.....	26
Minnesota Attorney General: DFL.....	35
Minnesota Secretary of State: Republicans.....	36
Minnesota State Auditor: Republicans.....	39

MINNESOTA VOTING INFORMATION

How primary elections work



In partisan races, or those with political parties, only one candidate in each party moves on. For example, the winner of the Republican primary for governor will be on the ballot in the November general election. The rest of the candidates are out of the running.

You can only vote for one party, but you choose which one, as Minnesota doesn't have party registration.

In nonpartisan races, the primary narrows the pool of candidates down to twice the number of available seats. So if five candidates are running for county sheriff, the top two in the primary will be on the ballot in November. If 14 people are running for four seats on the school board, the top eight will advance.

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 June 26. 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 June 26. 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 July 24, 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 **Primary Election Day**, Tuesday, Aug. 11, 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.

MINNESOTA VOTING INFORMATION

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 July 21. You'll need an email address and your driver's license or the last four digits of your 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.

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 public radio station, founded in 1976. We have signals in Grand Rapids (91.7), Bemidji (90.5) and Brainerd (89.9), and our broadcast can always be streamed at kaxe.org.

KAXE News began in 2023, and our team of Northern Minnesota-born-and-raised journalists puts together this Primary Election Guide.

KAXE's Election Guide methodology



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

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

U.S. SENATE: DEMOCRATS



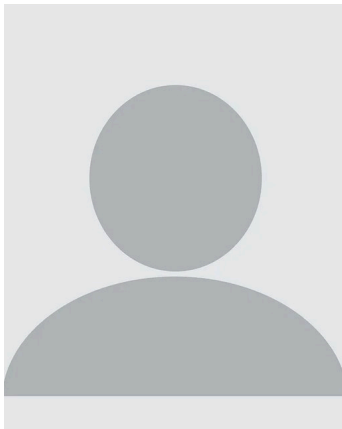
Kurt Michael Anderson
kurtmichaelanderson2026.org



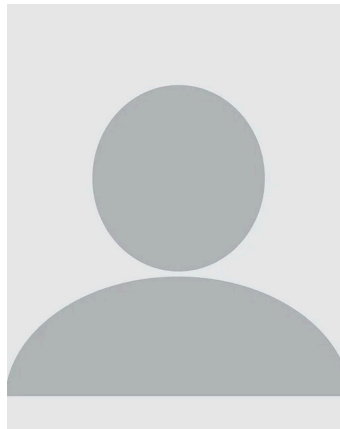
Angie Craig
angiecraig.com



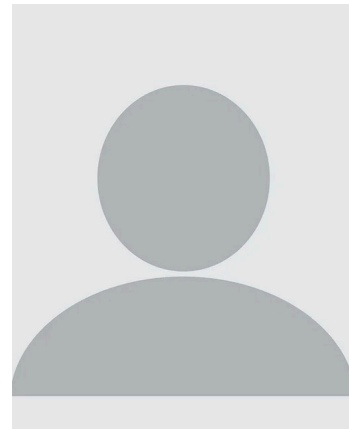
Peggy Flanagan
peggyflanagan.com
Party endorsed



George Kalberer*



Peter John Murgic*



Billy Nord*
billynordforminnesota.com

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.



Age on Election Day: 73
Community: Minneapolis

Kurt Michael Anderson

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? I have resolved, to the greatest extent possible, to avoid specific criticism of other primary candidates. But from what I have heard so far, they seem to be addressing the passing concerns of the moment instead of articulating the broad goals that I addressed in my answer, immediately above.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. 1. If the Senate votes are available, impeach/remove/disqualify the vice president (first), the president, and the five supreme court justices that have greenlit the president's criminality.
2. Raise taxes on incomes above \$300,000 – and on various financial and property transactions – sufficiently to close the federal budget deficit and pay off the national debt in 10-15 years; WHILE restoring 45 years of cuts to social benefits, improving access to health care, and replenishing our military capacity to resist tyranny worldwide.
3. Highly tax cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence operations, particularly as to their energy usage, and closely regulate artificial intelligence.
(I list four more items online, and the list is still incomplete!)

What immigration policies do you support? Reform and enforcement go hand in hand. One will not succeed without the other. We are already lacking workers, and like the rest of the world we have been below the population replacement rate for nearly a half century. We will soon be competing with other countries for immigrants. But I demand that we resist so-called caravans and other forms of invasion with whatever level of force will be effective. And PS, a big detail: porn performers are now getting virtually unlimited visas to work and live in the US. See for example, <https://nationalimmigrationlawyers.com/sex-sells-and-it-qualifies-how-onlyfans-creators-are-winning-1b-visas/>. Curbing and reversing the pornification of our culture, while honoring our Bill of Rights, is my fifth priority addressed online.

Editor's note: Social media influencers and digital creators have had success applying for an exclusive work visa that was designed for celebrities. Anecdotally, some immigration attorneys have said they've represented OnlyFans creators who have successfully obtained said visas.

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Attorney, 95% retired

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. 18 years high level involvement in the DFL, followed by over 20 years in independent politics. Campaign treasurer for Gov. candidate Tim Penney (2002) and State Sen. John Brandl (1986-90). Details and a few testimonials online.

Why are you running? To restore a United States of America that is muscular, confident, compassionate, and prudent. Unfortunately, right now our politics and culture are being marinated in the wrong kinds of sauces: fear, resentment, hedonism, and desperately reckless urges to gamble.

(continued on page 6)

Kurt Michael Anderson (continued)

How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

Raise and spend the money!! Our first child was born at Rice Memorial in Willmar. One of the greatest lies we have been told since the Reagan era is that we lack the resources to address these needs.

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

Ditto above. My fourth priority is listed online as follows: "Restore both the financial rewards for and the dignity of (and the opportunity for!) hourly labor. Simultaneously, give our new generations of adults an economic prospect that does not require them to rely on gambling to secure their futures." Equalize the benefits of cheap overseas labor with consistent and fairly calculated tariffs at our ports of entry. Again, details are online. I would prefer that cash welfare benefits reward performance requirements such as regular school attendance, with additional rewards for excellence.

Angie Craig



Age on Election Day: 54
Community: Minnesota's
Second Congressional
District

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Congresswoman, Minnesota's Second Congressional District.

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. I'm a proud Minnesotan. My wife and I moved to Minnesota in part because we could be a family. I'm proud to have represented the Second District for nearly eight years and would be honored to serve the state of Minnesota in the United States Senate. I grew up in a mobile home park and was raised by a single mom. Working two

jobs, I helped put myself through state college. I started my career as a newspaper reporter and worked my way up over 20 years in business, eventually leading a workforce of 16,000 for a major Minnesota manufacturer.

I'm married to a former Minnesota middle school teacher, Cheryl. We are mothers to four amazing adult men and grandmothers to three young grandsons.

Why are you running? I'm running because I know what it's like to be an underdog and counted out. And I don't want Minnesotans to feel like the American Dream is out of reach. I'm running to stand up to Donald Trump and this administration's authoritarian power grab. I'm running to deliver on key issues like: creating a tax system that helps the middle class and not Trump's billionaire buddies, childcare that's affordable, and ensuring healthcare is affordable by finally passing a public option. But since Day 1, I've also been focused on fixing a broken Washington. That means overturning Citizens United. Banning members of Congress from trading and owning stock—and banning them from becoming lobbyists after they've left office which was one of the first bills I ever introduced. Because we deserve leaders that work for us and not their biggest donors.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? I flipped a Republican congressional seat and helped take back Congress in 2018. During my time in Congress, I have taken on the powerful – to fight for what's right. I've taken on Big Pharma – writing legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs. I've stood up to corporate monopolies that are jacking up costs. I've worked to expand apprenticeship and job training programs and fought like hell on behalf of family farmers. I've worked to address the mental health and fentanyl epidemic in our country and pushed to ban members of Congress from trading stocks, becoming lobbyists and pushed for campaign finance reform. I am ready to take on the Trump administration's policies that are hurting working folks in our country and take the fight to Republicans. In the Senate, my focus will be on lowering costs, keeping our communities safe and fixing a broken Washington.

(continued on page 8)

Angie Craig (continued)

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

We need to lower the cost of health care in this country. I've already passed legislation to cap the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35/month, but we need to expand that to all individuals and extend the ACA Tax Credits. We also must enact Medicare for all who want it, a public option.

I also am committed to passing the PRO Act so it is easier for people to organize and collectively bargain because labor built the middle class in Minnesota.

Finally, we must invest in public education. Specifically, we need to fully fund IDEA (special education) and hold up the federal government's end of the deal to stop the drain on local schools' budgets.

What immigration policies do you support?

I believe that we must uphold the rule of law and ensure people receive due process. We need an immigration system that protects our borders and rewards those who work hard, pay taxes or serve in the military – I understand that immigration is critical to our country's economic prosperity. I am fighting to pass comprehensive immigration reform that creates a legal immigration system and asylum processes that are fast, fair, and final and provides a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers, including the American Dream and Promise Act. I've opposed Operation Metro Surge and voted against funding Donald Trump's ICE and introduced Articles of Impeachment against Kristi Noem.

How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

I fought against the cuts in the Republican One Big Ugly Bill. I've introduced legislation to repeal those cuts to Medicaid that are hurting our rural economies and closing rural hospitals. I also believe we must permanently extend the ACA Tax Credits and move to "Medicare for all who want it."

I'm extremely proud of the work I've done to lower the cost of health care in Congress including capping the cost of insulin at \$35/month for seniors and allowing Medicare to finally negotiate prescription drug prices.

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

In addition to fighting to lower the cost of health care, I believe we need to take on the corporate monopolies that are jacking up the cost of everything in our lives, which is why I founded the Monopoly Busters Caucus in Congress.

I've introduced legislation to lower gas prices by allowing year-round sale of E15. In Congress, I've opposed the Republican cuts to SNAP and have introduced legislation to repeal those cuts, which are harming our rural communities and urban alike.

For our seniors in particular, I wrote the bill to eliminate federal taxes on Social Security benefits and have fought tooth and nail against cuts to Social Security.

Peggy Flanagan



Age on Election Day: 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.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? Right now, too many of our elected officials are beholden to corporations, special interests and the billionaires behind them. I'm the only candidate for U.S. Senate who isn't taking corporate PAC money because I want Minnesotans to trust I work for them. Big corporations and billionaires already have plenty of representation in Washington and they're spending millions against me because they know my opponents will do their bidding. Whether it's the crypto industry, AIPAC, big oil, the health insurance companies or other special interests, they're standing in the way of the future Minnesotans deserve. I'm running to take on corporate greed and Donald Trump, make government work for working people again, and prove that in Washington, politicians should be reflective of the people they represent – not special interests.

(continued on page 10)

U.S. SENATE: DEMOCRATS

Peggy Flanagan (continued)

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 having 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 lives they want to live 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: 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.

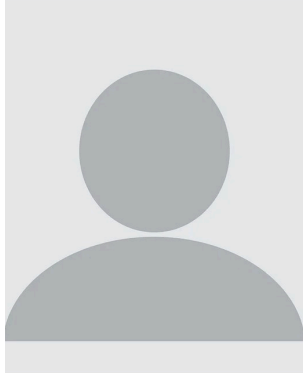
How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

Every Minnesotan deserves affordable health care, no matter their ZIP code. I believe health care is a human right, which is why I support Medicare for All. Until we achieve that, we should do everything we can to help people afford their health care. I relied on Medicaid growing up, so I know it's more than a health insurance program, it's a lifeline. Rural hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and mental health providers rely on Medicaid funding to keep their doors open. Up to 250,000 Minnesotans could lose coverage under Trump's Medicaid cuts when they take effect in 2027, but we still have time to restore every dollar before it's too late. I'll also fight to rein in insurance company greed by ending prior authorization, lowering prescription drug costs, and ensuring patients and doctors – not insurance companies – make health care decisions.

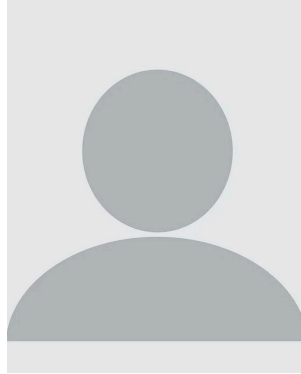
Many Minnesotans are struggling to afford their basic needs. How do you plan to help them?

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.

U.S. SENATE: REPUBLICANS



**Bob “Again”
Carney Jr.***



Cynthia Gail*



**Ahmad R.
(Raafat) Hassan***
drahmadhassan.com



Joyce Lacey
joycelacey.com



Patrick Munro*
gowithmunro.com



Adam Schwarze*
schwarzeforsenate.com
Party endorsed



Michele Tafoya
micheletafoya.com



Tom Weiler
tomweiler2026.com



Royce White*
roycewhite.us

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Joyce Lacey



Age on Election Day: 64

Community: Ashby, Minnesota (Commuting to the Twin Cities for work)

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? I am the Director of the June Lynne Lacey Foundation which serves vulnerable adults and children, the elderly, disabled and our veterans by providing meals, necessities, groceries, clothing, holiday gifts, scholarships for graduating seniors and accessible playground equipment for physically challenged children.

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. I am VP of Community Engagement for the Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council. I serve on the Board of Directors for Minnesota Women in Film & Television and as Chaplain for both the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 357 & the Association of

the United States Army, General Vessey Chapter. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Ambassadors of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, on the Steering Committee for the Susan G.Komen Race for the Cure & the Leadership Committee for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. For over thirty years, I have volunteered with the MS Society, Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, American Diabetes Association & St. Paul Winter Carnival. I hold three Degrees & have worked on numerous films, in television, as a reporter, a teacher & a pastor. All of these experiences qualify me for this position.

Why are you running? I am running for US Senate to stop the corruption and fraud in Minnesota, to help balance the budget and get a handle on our 39+ Trillion National Debt, to enact campaign finance and election reform initiatives, to work to control inflation while growing the economy, to end human trafficking in all forms (advocating for human rights), to redouble our efforts to end homelessness and ensure affordable housing, to stop involuntary, abusive, for profit, fraudulent guardianships and conservatorships & to assist veterans. My campaign centers on advocating for marginalized voices, promoting justice and security for all individuals and implementing systemic changes to ensure stability. This involves acknowledging past sacrifices, prioritizing comprehensive reforms & empowering otherwise marginalized communities to build a more fair and more secure future for generations to come.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? I believe voters should choose me, as I am a true voice for the people! I pledge to defend our freedom and US Constitutional Rights. My past experience, education and public service define me as the best qualified candidate for this position. In addition, I have made it clear that our campaign will not take contributions from special interest groups (such as Big Pharma) that may cause harm to the people. I will not be beholden to vote against my conscience and against anything that might harm the people. I believe campaign funds should rather be spent helping the people, such as for food selves, rather than on commercials and print ads that only promote the candidate. I pledge to protect America's future. As a proven leader with over forty years of experience, leadership and community service, I am clearly the most qualified candidate for US Senate.

(continued on page 13)

Joyce Lacey (continued)

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

First, we must initiate Guardianship & Conservatorship Reforms, making sure that no human being is involuntarily kidnapped and forced into a Probate Court where they are regarded as mere property (having their identity, all their life savings & property stripped from them). This Modern Day Slavery must end. We need a law, like Karilyn's Law in New York. We must pass a Bill to enforce the Wards Bill of Rights & stop all forms of human trafficking. Second, we must work to control inflation while growing the economy and put an end to fraud. Finally, we must redouble our efforts to uphold our US Constitution & Declaration of Independence. unalienable Rights must be protected for generations to come

What immigration policies do you support?

I support US Immigration Policy that is governed by the Immigration & Nationality Act, which provides pathways for family reunification, employment based immigration and humanitarian relief. I do not condone illegal immigration. All persons should go through the proper channels and be screened for criminal records.

How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

I would leverage community health models, diversify healthcare revenue & expand telehealth access. Because rural hospitals and clinics operate on very thin margins, mitigating these financial & care losses requires strategic, localized adaption to keep essential services open. We must implement value based care & work with the Minnesota Department of Health to apply for RHTP funds to ensure that the maximum allowable share for provider payments is utilized. In addition, we should convert struggling facilities into Rural Health Clinics or Federally Qualified Health Centers to secure more stable safety net funding. Finally, by applying for the FCC's Connect2Health Task Force programs, we would expand broadband access and telehealth capabilities.

Editor's note: Minnesota has already successfully applied for Rural Health Transformation Program funds.

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

We need both immediate crisis relief and long term systemic solutions to help Minnesotans afford basic needs. We must expand our social safety nets, lower the cost of living through policy changes, provide localized direct aid & connect individuals to essential financial resources. 211.org is available to help with emergency housing, utility bills & healthcare. We must ensure these resources and others such as SNAP for food assistance & MFIP for cash assistance remain viable for years to come. I would encourage Community lead and grassroots initiatives such as local food shelves, free groceries for neighbors in need and clothing drives. I would advocate for programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit which put money directly back into the pockets of low & middle income workers & I would support zoning reforms & Public funding aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing.



Age on Election Day: 61
Community: I live in 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

Michele Tafoya

cover some of the biggest sports moments in America, including five Super Bowls and five Olympic Games. Those high-pressure environments—researching 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.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? I'm asking Republican voters to choose me because I'm the proven, electable conservative who will bring some Minnesota common sense to Washington. Minnesotans know me from years of straight-talking journalism and my deep roots here. I'm a fighter who listens. I've traveled more than 14,000 miles (and counting!) across all 87 counties and achieved record-setting fundraising with millions raised from tens of thousands of energized donors. That broad support proves I can unite our party and win in November. This is our best shot at flipping this open seat. I'm excited to earn your vote, and I'm ready to win this Senate seat and deliver real change for Minnesota families.

(continued on page 15)

Michele Tafoya (continued)

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.

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.

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.

How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

Rural Minnesota communities deserve real solutions, not more empty promises from Washington. I will work to reform Medicaid by rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse so we can protect access to care for those that need it most.

The Affordable Care Act promised affordability but delivered higher costs and declining access. Career politicians have failed Minnesotans for decades. It's time for a change.

In the Senate, I'll work to increase competition amongst providers, expand price transparency, and put patients and doctors back in control of health care decisions. My goal is patient-first healthcare that actually works. As an outsider with no allegiance to the broken status quo, I'll deliver the common-sense reforms that families across Minnesota deserve.

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.

Tom Weiler



Age on Election Day: 49

Community:

Eden Prairie. I also spend a lot of time on my uncle's farms outside of Morris and in the Longville area near our family's cabin.

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

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

All of my life and professional experiences led me to this point, even though this was never the plan. My plan was to be a leader in the US Submarine Force, however, that plan was derailed by a diagnosis of Early Onset Parkinson's Disease at Walter Reed in 2018, eventually ending my service in the Navy. I believe when one door shuts, another opens - for a reason. Throughout my 20 year career

as a Submarine Officer, I not only operated nuclear reactors, guided watchteams and led submarines on deployments around the world, I also developed billiondollar budgets and border security plans at the Pentagon, drafted legislation on Capitol Hill, conducted humanitarian operations, and partook in public and foreign policy efforts. I have professional experience and real world knowledge of the majority of major topics and issues that the Senate works on -- much more than any other candidate.

Why are you running? To solve problems to improve your life, the lives of all Minnesotans, and to bring Minnesotans together.

Every Minnesotan I have met on the campaign trail agrees on two things:

- We have problems in Minnesota
- No politician wants to roll up their sleeves and tackle the issues.

I will leverage 25 years of real-world, relevant experience in national security, operating & leading submarines, public & foreign policy, budgeting, engineering, critical infrastructure, and nuclear power operations to solve problems, make life more affordable for Minnesotans, and torpedo the do-nothing status quo in our United States Senate.

The majority of my solutions involve fixing/shrinking the government, so the governments in St Paul and D.C. focus on serving you, Minnesotans, and not on the beuacracy.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election?

1. I am the most experienced and knowlegeable on issues within the Senate's portfolio.
2. I will solve problems.
3. I can W.I.N. (Win In November)

Affordability: Your affordability improves when:

- Fraud is caught, stopped and punished
 - Government actually budgets (the verb to budget - to determine how much you have to spend, what you need, and what is not needed)
 - More, better paying jobs in Minnesota
 - Unplug from China, Connect to Minnesota Initiative
- The leadership and moral standards forged by leading men and women at sea in demanding, vital and high stakes missions will enable me to build teams of support and pass legislation that improves the lives of Minnesotans and all Americans.

(continued on page 17)

Tom Weiler (continued)

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. After listening to Minnesotans, top 3 issues are affordability, fraud, and the growing feeling of division between Minnesotans.

Solutions:

Life more affordable by eliminating fraud, less government waste, responsible budgeting, and most impactfully, developing a growing economy producing more, higher paying jobs. Here's how:

Fraud – Accountability Bill, jail time for offenders, investigate at the speed of relevancy to create a deterrent effect

Waste & Budgeting – No Budget, No Fundraising Bill proposal. My bill would require Congress to pass a budget by September 31st. If no budget passed, no fundraising, no pay, and no travel for Members of Congress

Growing Economy & Better Jobs – Unplug from China, Connect to Minnesota Initiative

Competitive state taxes, mine valuable resources in our northern ranges, & reduce government regulations on agriculture Eliminate Gerrymandering with my “Strikeout Gerrymandering Bill”

Elect Senators of Character, not Characters

What immigration policies do you support?

Complete Border Security Infrastructure

Codify into law the policies to maintain border secured

Self Deport, Self-Report or Head Out Bill

- All illegal immigrants who entered our country on or after January 1, 2020:

- Self Deport Opportunity: Receive stipend and trip home. Potential to legally immigrate in future if you self-report. Those who do not self report will be deported when detained.

- All illegal immigrants who entered the United States prior to January 1, 2020:

- Self Report your illegal immigration status

- Provide proof of employment, paying taxes, positively contributing to American society

- Self Report material is reviewed by Department of Homeland Security in coordination with IRS, Labor, etc.

- If upstanding performance by illegal immigrant, pathway to permanent status in the United States

- Self-Report window is 6-months, if Self-Report does not occur. Illegal immigrants will be deported if detained. No pathway to Citizenship

How would you work to reduce the impact of Medicaid cuts on rural communities?

Again, creating a better business environment to produce, more, better, and higher paying jobs will increase all Minnesotans overall affordability.

Specifically regarding Medicaid cuts, State funds should be made available to plug rural medical care budgets. Additionally, if redundant medical services are available at private State, and Veterans Affairs funded facilities, patient cross-over would be optimized.

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

Affordability: All Minnesotans lives will become more affordable if:

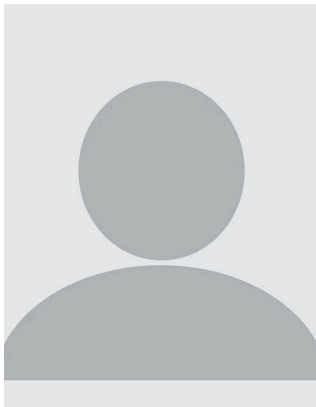
- Fraud is stopped and money recouped

- Less federal government waste

- More, better and higher paying jobs in Minnesota

- Unplug from China, Connect to Minnesota Initiative

GOVERNOR: DFL



Thomas Evenstad*
evenstadforgovernor.com



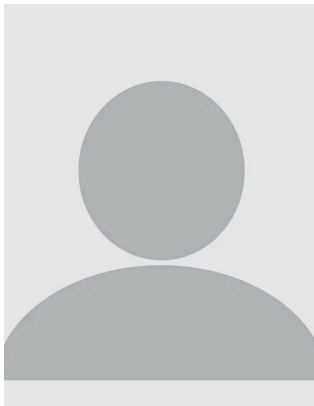
Bill E. Gates J.R.
votebillgates.net



Amy Klobuchar
amyklobuchar.com
Party endorsed



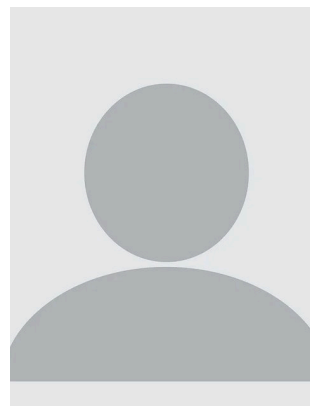
Kobey J. Layne
kobey4governor.com



Ole "Viking" Savior*



Po Vang
povang4governor.com



Mohammed Wazwaz*

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Bill E. Gates J.R.



Age on Election Day: 40
Community: Minneapolis

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

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

My educational background is centered on management, operations, and fiscal responsibility. I hold certifications in management, controlling costs, and purchasing through the National Restaurant Association's ManageFirst program. I am also a certified ManageFirst Proctor Instructor, which qualifies me to teach and administer coursework in these subject areas. I believe these qualifications are relevant to public office because government, like any large organization, must be managed responsibly. Leaders must understand budgeting, purchasing, accountability, and the importance of controlling costs while still delivering quality services to the people they serve. In addition to my educational training, I have applied these principles throughout my professional career in management, human resources, education, nonprofit leadership, and operations. These experiences have taught me how

to balance competing priorities, manage limited resources, and make practical decisions that serve both organizational goals and the people who depend on them.

Why are you running? Give a voice to people who feel ignored by government. Represent working families and everyday Minnesotans. Improve educational opportunities across Minnesota. Increase support for students, teachers, and educational staff. Reform family court. Encourage greater involvement of both parents in children's lives. Improve foster care outcomes. Create a clearer pathway to becoming a foster parent. Create a clearer pathway to adoption. Increase transparency in adoption and foster care systems. Help children find stable, permanent homes. Make government easier to understand and navigate. Increase accountability in government. Reduce waste and improve efficiency. Focus on practical solutions rather than partisan politics. Support workforce development and job training. Strengthen communities throughout Minnesota. Ensure rural and urban communities are both heard. Advocate for people who often fall through the cracks. Leave Minnesota stronger for the next generation.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? People should vote for me because I offer a different perspective. I am not a career politician. I come from a background of working, volunteering, and serving in communities alongside everyday Minnesotans.

I am running because I believe too many people feel unheard by government. Too often, the conversation becomes about political parties instead of the people those parties are supposed to represent. I believe Minnesota deserves leadership that listens to all voices and focuses on practical solutions. I support reforms in education, family court, foster care, adoption, workforce development, and government accountability because I believe these systems should work for the people they serve. My goal is not to protect the status quo, but to improve it. Voters who want a different approach, greater transparency, and a government that listens to everyday Minnesotans should consider supporting my campaign.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them?

I chose Leah Harris as my running mate because she brings a practical, real-world perspective to government. Like me, she comes from the hospitality and service industry, where success depends on listening to people, solving problems, and serving others every day. Leah understands the challenges facing working Minnesotans because she has lived them. She knows what it is like to work directly with the public, balance competing demands, and provide excellent service under pressure. I believe those experiences are valuable in public office because government is ultimately a service organization that exists to serve the people of Minnesota.

(continued on page 20)

Bill E. Gates J.R. (continued)

Together, we bring backgrounds that are different from many traditional political candidates. We understand the concerns of working families, service workers, and everyday citizens because we have shared many of those experiences ourselves. I believe Leah's perspective, work ethic, and commitment to serving others make her an excellent choice for Lieutenant Governor.

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

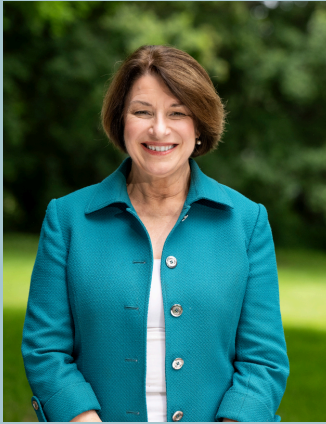
1. Education: Teachers should not have to pay for basic classroom supplies out of their own pockets. If a police officer does not have to pay for the lead in a bullet, why is a teacher paying for the lead in a pencil? I support increased classroom funding and stronger support for educators.
2. Government Accountability: I want to reduce opportunities for fraud and improve public trust in government. This includes reviewing state identification and licensing procedures to ensure they are secure, efficient, and accountable.
3. Mental Health: Minnesota must expand access to mental health services, especially in underserved communities. I support earlier intervention, increased access to care, and stronger community-based mental health resources.

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs? I believe one of the causes of fraud in government programs is the increasing reliance on automated systems without adequate human oversight. Technology can be a useful tool, but it should support decision-making, not replace accountability. My approach would be to place trained staff back into key verification and review processes where appropriate, particularly in areas involving identity verification and public benefits. I also believe Minnesota should review its driver's license and Real ID issuance process. Issuing identification directly through state offices rather than relying on mail delivery could reduce opportunities for fraud and strengthen public confidence in the system. At the same time, I believe existing state resources should be used efficiently. Any facilities affected by operational changes should be evaluated for alternative public uses, such as workforce training or other state services, rather than being left underutilized.

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any? I believe Minnesota's education funding formula should ensure that schools, teachers, and students have the resources they need to succeed. My philosophy on education can be summed up in a question I often ask: If a law enforcement officer does not have to pay for the lead in a bullet, why are teachers constantly paying for the lead in their pencils? Teachers should not be expected to personally fund classroom supplies. I support increasing classroom resources and reducing out-of-pocket expenses for educators so they can focus on teaching rather than fundraising or purchasing basic materials. I also believe that investing in education reduces costs elsewhere. When we invest in students, we create more opportunities, stronger communities, and better outcomes. In many cases, money spent on education today can reduce the need for spending on incarceration tomorrow. Strong schools are one of the best long-term investments Minnesota can make.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

I believe I would be well-positioned to work with a split government because I do not approach every issue through a strictly partisan lens. I consider myself a centrist and believe good ideas can come from any political party. For example, I support Second Amendment rights while also supporting reproductive freedom. I have found that many Minnesotans do not fit neatly into one political box, and neither do I. My focus is on finding practical solutions rather than advancing a partisan agenda. If elected, I would work with legislators from both parties by focusing on areas of common ground and respecting honest disagreements where they exist. My goal would be to build coalitions around solutions that benefit Minnesota and move the state forward. Additional details regarding my policy positions and centrist philosophy are available on my campaign website.



Age on Election Day: 66
Community: Minneapolis

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

21

Amy Klobuchar

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 choose you to advance to the general election?

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.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them?

My running mate is Ben Schierer, former Mayor of Fergus Falls, a dedicated husband and father of five, who knows what it takes to run a small business. I chose Ben because he hasn't just talked about how to create opportunities in Greater Minnesota, he has done it. As mayor, he brought together local government, small businesses, and non-profits to revitalize the Fergus Falls riverfront and bring local businesses back downtown. Ben has run two small businesses. He has experience getting results by bringing together the private sector, non-profits, and the public. He knows that transforming our government can't happen without economic growth and that we need local solutions tailored to the needs of every community – not a one size fits all mentality. Together, we'll bring that approach to state government.

(continued on page 22)

Amy Klobuchar (continued)

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 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.

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

I hear about this from parents, teachers, and school leaders across Greater Minnesota. As the daughter of a teacher who taught second grade until she was 70, I know that our schools shouldn't have to choose between keeping the lights on and giving kids a great education. These cuts land on kids and teachers, which is why funding our schools will always be a priority for me.

I will invest in what works – proven, evidence-based reading and math curricula, tutoring, and supporting teachers, and I will broaden educator recruitment pipelines so rural districts can put great teachers in the classroom. I'll also work to make health care more affordable for school personnel so that school districts aren't overwhelmed by costs they can't control. And I will help educators keep students on task by banning cellphones in classrooms and reducing screentime.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

During my many visits to Bemidji to tour the damage from last year's storms, I saw Minnesotans working together to clean up and aid struggling neighbors, helping each other regardless of political party. I've seen the same in the response to other crises in the region.

That's what we need more of in our politics. In the Senate, I've been ranked #1 for bipartisan bills and #3 out of 100 for passing bills into law. I worked with Republican North Dakota Senator Cramer to pass a law helping families of firefighters who get sick from service-related cancers.

And I've partnered with Republican Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa on bills to take on Big Pharma and lower prescription drug costs.

In the plans I've put forward, I've drawn on ideas proposed by both Republicans and Democrats. As governor, I'll work across the aisle to get things done.

Kobey J. Layne



Age on Election Day: 26
Community: St. Paul

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? AVEDA, Assistant Store Manager

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. My recent political experience is working as a Committee Legislative Assistant at the Minnesota Senate. In undergrad, I studied Political Science, Economics, and Nonprofit Management at Hamline University, and received my Master of Public Policy degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Why are you running? I am running for every person who is seeking change to bring

affordability, accountability of the government, and seeking their freedoms to be upheld. The corporate establishments fail to deliver on meaningful change time and time again, and it's up to us to be the change we want to see in our political system.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election?

This campaign is fighting for universal single-payer healthcare through the Minnesota Health Plan; for publicly traded companies to pay a \$25/hour minimum wage and be required to host union elections annually; safeguard 2SLGBTQIA+ rights; capping childcare at 7% of a family's income; capping annual rent increases to 3% statewide; investing in worker cooperatives; establishing a progressive corporate tax rate and a 2% wealth tax on assets above \$10 million; guaranteeing teachers a minimum salary of \$60k/year; protecting the Boundary Waters; upholding indigenous treaty rights; changing charges of small amounts of illicit substances from criminal penalties to civil penalties; protecting abortion access; and supporting Palestine

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them?

Paul Ference because he got in the race for the same reasons: protecting our neighbors and providing supports for our communities.

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

Make your life more affordable. Make the government answerable to you. Protecting your freedoms.

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

We will staff the Office of the Inspector General with someone who will be pointed up at the powerful, not the families in need.

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

We need to close the special education cross subsidy gap, and pay teachers more to get money into the hands of rural communities.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

We will come together on policies that progress our shared values: making life more affordable for families, making government answerable to Minnesotans, and protecting our freedoms.

Po Vang



Age on Election Day: 31
Community: Hmong.
North St. Paul

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? disabled. N/A

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. Self taught through the best tax lawyer in the country.

Why are you running? I was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and I live with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), a neurological disorder that causes gradual physical decline. I've lived with this reality my entire life.

This became deeply personal when I saw what my brother is going through. He has the same disease, but more severely. His lung capacity is dangerously low, and he cannot travel long distances to access some of the most advanced treatments available. That's the problem. Too many Americans with serious chronic illnesses are forced to look overseas for care. Some European countries

already offer more accessible advanced treatments and better outcomes. Minnesota should be leading, not lagging behind. That's why I'm running for governor.

We should not have to leave the country to get the care we need. Real healthcare means access to advanced treatment, clean water, proper nutrition, and the ability to live with dignity.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? I'm the anti-AIPAC candidate. I'm physically disabled so I've lived through our healthcare system, so I know firsthand where it's failing and how we can do better. I'll protect Minnesotans from being drafted by the Epstein class for their Epstein wars. And I'll tax the rich—the millionaire and billionaire Epstein class—while eliminating state property, income, and sales taxes for working families.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them? Mark Frascione. He's a long time DFL member and comes from a background that understands Universal Basic Healthcare like myself. And that he wants to help me the next Generation that's also from an immigrant family become future leaders instead of another 50+ year old person who's clearly out of touch. Typical career politicians who's been in office for 20+ years and nothing has changed for the better and has since gotten far worse. Mark wants to help me return the economy back to the 1960's where 1 man had 1 job that paid for 1 household. He is the "Wise old man" who'll help guide me and advise me on any misgivings I have.

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

Anti-war & anti-Ice:

- Protect Minnesota from getting drafted by the Epstein class for their Epstein wars

Anti Israel

- Implement a law to ban foreign countries mainly Israel from funding state legislatures to influence state law in the foreign countries favor. Mainly Israel.

- Ban AIPAC from giving money to state legislatures

Tax the rich:

- Eliminate state property, income, sales tax
- Gross flat rate tax of 10% on anyone making more than \$250k

Universal basic healthcare:

- Provide affordable healthcare
- Drastically reduce cost of health insurance

Editor's note: Federal law prohibits foreign money in all levels of U.S. elections. Pro-Israel lobbying groups have contributed to some Minnesota congressional campaigns, but none of the top pro-Israel contributors gave to state campaigns in the last two election cycles.

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs? I will "DOGE" the state budget. literally audit and cut waste and spending.

(continued on page 25)

Po Vang (continued)

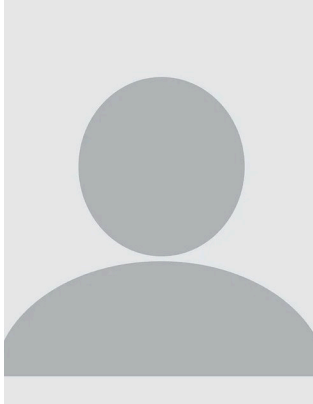
Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

I will try my best to increase funding for Northern Minnesota schools and also mimic charter school models because they are able to do well despite lack of school funding. Take the good bits and pieces from everywhere to help improve Northern Minnesota schools.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

Easy! Find common ground and work from there. Then it's essentially a give and take situation afterwards being blunt and honest. We can't do this without our friends from across the aisle. We are stronger together than divided by dumb political labels.

GOVERNOR: REPUBLICANS



Loner Blue*



Lisa Demuth

lisaformn.com



Raul J. Estrada

raul2026-crushcommunism.com



John Krhin

krhin4gov.com



Mike Lindell*

mikelindellgov.com



Ross Nova

rossnovaforgovernor.com



Kendall Qualls*

kqformn.com
Party endorsed

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

Lisa Demuth



Age on Election Day: 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 and to restore fiscal sanity to our state. 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.

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 choose you to advance to the general election?

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.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them?

I chose Ryan Wilson as my lieutenant governor running mate. Ryan ran for state auditor in 2022, and came within 0.32% of becoming the first Republican to win a statewide election since 2006. Ryan is a former business owner, a proven conservative and constitutional attorney who beat Tim Walz at the Supreme Court in 2025, when the Democrats fielded a candidate for legislature who lied about where he lived. Like me, Ryan is a lifelong Minnesotan. He's a father of five who resides with his wife and kids in Maple Grove. I've asked Ryan to help execute our plan to eliminate fraud in state government. Read our plan on my website.

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.

(continued on page 28)

Lisa Demuth (continued)

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

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/

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

Minnesota schools need a dramatic reset. Despite years of increased investment, our test scores have stagnated and too many kids are moving through our education system despite failing to meet basic benchmarks for reading, writing, math, and science. As Governor I will lead an education revolution that puts academic excellence and reading proficiency at the center of our agenda. Before I entered the legislature in 2019, I served three terms on the ROCORI School Board, where we proved we could solve problems and provide quality education for children in an efficient manner. I will fight to keep woke gender and racial ideology out of our classrooms and focus dollars in the classroom instead of on growing the education bureaucracy that is driving up local property taxes across Minnesota.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

I have proven as a legislator since 2019, as House Minority Leader in 2023 and as House Speaker the last two years that I can lead my colleagues and work in constructive manner to get the basics done for Minnesotans. That does not mean we have to compromise our values. And it does not mean we have to throw more money at a problem. More often than not, the solutions to better and more efficient government do not involved spending more money. We will eliminate billions of wasted taxpayer dollars by ending the fraud culture that has persisted inside executive agencies that for 16 years under the control of Democrat governors. Minnesotans are ready to end that chapter of fraud.



Age on Election Day: 64
Community: CD2, Apple Valley

Raul J. Estrada

votes....whereas the others are afraid to go, and refuse to campaign in. We cant afford to lose this election with weak candidates that will fold under pressure with no real life experiences

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election?

Simple answer. Having proved myself over the past 40 years throughout Minnesota and my willingness and ability to put myself on the line for them throughtout the years fighting for them in multiple situations. I have been heavily involved In Minnesotas inner city urban districts earning the trust and support to get that support other Republican candidates cannot get.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them? Joe Kincaid. Chosen because we have fought for Minnesotans together since 2020 and I trust his convictions and integrity

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. 1. Block the socialist agenda to destabilize Minnesotas economy through Marxist tactics in order to create a dependency on government programs to instill socialism. Use current government programs to create indepence and prosperity for Minnesotans, instead of dependency on government programs.
2. Hold all those accountable involved or complicit with fraud, as well as the consequences needed to deter it from ever happening again.
3. Unify the moderate voters from both side of the political isle to bring together a unified front to restore our state and way of life

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

"Real" investigation", not the political charade of going through the motions for votes. Hold all those accountable from top to bottom. Handcuffs, jail, and heavy sentences to deter from ever happening again Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

Sadly with the wasteful spending already taking its toll there isnt much room left to change that situation until we can rein in the fraud and waste. However, there are still other alternative solutions. Id propose raising the bar on academic curriculum, as well as bringing trades and career preparation back into the classroom, with students being able to participate in internships and "earn to learn" programs after school and through vacations. To be earning a livable wage with benefits straight out of high school

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

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. 40 years serving Minnesotan communities statewide.

Why are you running?

Current candidate lineup of "serial candidates" have no experience in dealing with todays violent and aggressive landscape of todays political environment. None have engaged in anything other than campaigning every election cycle.....with the few currently holding office having done nothing to oppose the fraud and corruption while in office until the recently decided to run, only now taking any actions to bolster their political platform for votes. Not only do I have a 40 year history of engagement, but also have a strong foothold and support in Minnesotas major voter bases within metro districts to actually get those

(continued on page 30)

Raul J. Estrada (continued)

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

Sadly with the wasteful spending already taking its toll there isn't much room left to change that situation until we can rein in the fraud and waste. However, there are still other alternative solutions. I'd propose raising the bar on academic curriculum, as well as bringing trades and career preparation back into the classroom, with students being able to participate in internships and "earn to learn" programs after school and through vacations. To be earning a livable wage with benefits straight out of high school

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

I'm already entertaining that by working to unify moderates on both sides of the aisle



Age on Election Day: 73
Community: Side Lake

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

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

I bring more than fifty years of leadership experience across ministry, business, labor, and property management. As a Minister of the Gospel, I have recruited, mentored, and developed leaders in church congregations, overseeing organizational development and acquiring and managing property. This required sustained team leadership, long-term planning, conflict resolution, and stewardship of people and resources in community-based organizations.

In addition to ministry leadership, I have worked in a range of hands-on industries that reflect Minnesota's working people, as a miner, as a pre-loader and delivery worker, and an over-the-road truck driver. I have also owned and operated a small business

John Krhin

serving title companies and currently manage commercial and residential real estate. I have designed and built two homes and remodeling others, requiring coordination of contractors, budgeting, and project execution. My experiences reflect practical leadership, business management, and a lifelong record of working with and leading teams in real-world environments.

Why are you running? The United States and Minnesota face serious challenges, including weakening public trust in government, disregard for the rule of law, and a growing secularism that I believe is inconsistent with the moral foundations that shaped our nation and state. I am running because I believe I have been called to serve at this moment in history to help restore those foundations.

My focus is on protecting human life, strengthening parental rights in education and upbringing, respecting private property, and ensuring responsible stewardship of our land and water. These principles are rooted in our Christian heritage and the values that have long guided our constitutional republic, and they form the cornerstone of my campaign.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? My approach is to begin at a foundational level, with the principles upon which our system of government rests. While public policy discussions often focus on budgets, processes, and regulatory reform, I believe those efforts must be grounded in a stronger moral and civic foundation if we are to effectively address the deeper challenges facing Minnesota. As President John Adams observed, "Our Constitution was made only for

a moral and religious people." When those foundations weaken, no level of policy detail or administrative reform is sufficient on its own. I am running to help restore and reinforce those principles so that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are protected not only in law, but in practice across Minnesota.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them? Dennis Conn of Alexandria, Minnesota is an experienced businessman and entrepreneur who shares a commitment to restoring the moral foundations of the State of Minnesota. He is an innovator who identifies needs and works to address them through practical solutions. Drawing on his extensive background as a commercial pilot, he is currently developing a school to train young pilots, applying his experience to create new opportunities for the next generation.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific policy goals. My top priorities will focus on restoring foundational principles, strengthening family authority, and ensuring integrity in state government. I will work with the Legislature to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot establishing a right-to-life

(continued on page 32)

John Krhin (continued)

framework for Minnesota, allowing the voters of our state to decide the question of unrestricted abortion policy directly.

I will ensure that parents retain full authority over the upbringing of their children, including decisions related to education, healthcare, and faith. This includes ending state or local interference that overrides parental rights in schools or through education bureaucracies, and restoring local accountability in education governance.

I will pursue a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and misconduct involving state government funds or programs. This includes strengthening oversight mechanisms, ensuring that violations are fully investigated and prosecuted where appropriate, and holding accountable both those who commit fraud and those in positions of authority who knowingly fail to act.

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

The Legislature has already passed, and Governor Walz has signed, legislation establishing an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG), but it has not yet been fully funded to operate effectively. If elected, I would ensure the OIG is fully funded and staffed, and appoint a highly qualified, independent leader to ensure strong oversight and accountability.

In the meantime, I would direct all Commissioners to conduct comprehensive audits of their respective agencies as a top priority, with a clear mandate to identify and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse. Where wrongdoing is identified, responsible individuals would be held accountable through termination and, when appropriate, referral for investigation and prosecution.

Editor's note: The Minnesota Legislature created the Office of the Inspector General in 2026 and appropriated funds for the office. The OIG may be able to expand its own law enforcement branch starting in 2028, if deemed necessary and funds are appropriated.

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any?

We need to deal with ever-increasing public and secondary education budgets across the state. It is prudent to carefully examine the value and outcomes we are receiving from tax dollars invested in our public schools. A 2024 report by the Center of the American Experiment raised a red flag. "Less than half of students — 45.3 percent in math and 49.7 percent in reading, respectively — demonstrated grade-level numeracy and literacy skills..." We must do better.

We're now getting poorer results despite spending more. I will work to ensure we get better results and spend less.

Editor's note: Krhin quoted a 2025 article from the Center of the American Experiment that cited 2024 data from the Minnesota Department of Education. While the exact percentages vary slightly, proficiency levels have remained below 50% in reading and math since at least 2021.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively?

We need to deal with ever-increasing public and secondary education budgets across the state. It is prudent to carefully examine the value and outcomes we are receiving from tax dollars invested in our public schools.

A 2024 report by the Center of the American Experiment raised a red flag. "Less than half of students — 45.3 percent in math and 49.7 percent in reading, respectively — demonstrated grade-level numeracy and literacy skills..." We must do better.

We're now getting poorer results despite spending more. I will work to ensure we get better results and spend less.



Ross Nova

I understand there are no quick fixes. Building a stronger Minnesota takes patience, thoughtful planning, and a commitment to long-term solutions rather than chasing political trends or empty promises. I believe government should protect our freedoms, create opportunity, and provide a stable foundation that allows individuals, families, and businesses to succeed.

Why are you running? I am running because I believe Minnesotans deserve more choices when selecting their next governor. My goal is to strengthen Minnesota's foundation so it can support future generations.

After reviewing the other candidates' websites, videos, forums, and social media, I found too many slogans and broad promises, but very few detailed plans explaining how those goals would be achieved. That's why I built my platform differently. Rather than relying on slogans or vague ideas, I focus on detailed proposals that answer the most important question: How will we get it done?

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election?

Voters should choose someone who has clear, detailed ideas on how to solve Minnesota's problems—not someone who relies on slogans or vague promises. They should choose someone who wants to stabilize Minnesota's economy, bring Fortune 500 companies back, and be a champion for small businesses by creating strong incentives to start and grow a business.

Voters should also choose someone who is honest about the numbers rather than making small savings sound much larger than they really are.

Finally, voters should choose someone who believes government should live within its means by putting it on a weight-loss program instead of increasing the budget year after year.

Who is your running mate, and why did you choose them?

Kerry Busby

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

Freeze property tax increases for the next four years, followed by a maximum annual increase of 1%. This would create a snowball effect of savings, help stabilize the rental market, and provide relief for farmers and businesses.

Protect businesses from crime by holding criminals accountable and preventing individuals from suing a business for injuries sustained while committing a crime. Create programs that encourage businesses to train young people in skilled trades by providing tax incentives for participating employers.

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Owner Operator Truck Driver

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

Growing up in an orphanage taught me resilience and perseverance. Missing years of early education showed me the lasting impact educational gaps can have on a child's future. My military service taught me discipline, leadership, accountability, and the importance of protecting the freedoms we all enjoy. I have also experienced homelessness, giving me firsthand knowledge of how difficult it is to rebuild your life. Those experiences taught me that, with opportunity and personal responsibility, people can overcome adversity and build a future they can be proud of.

(continued on page 34)

Ross Nova (continued)

How would you address concerns of widespread fraud in state-run programs? One proposed approach to increasing government transparency is a Minnesota Tax Tracker application. Under this concept, state spending on government programs, schools, and contracts would be publicly viewable in a searchable database. Users could follow how tax dollars are spent and flag transactions they believe warrant additional review. Flagged transactions would be visible to both the public and the appropriate government agency, allowing the agency to review the concern and provide an explanation or other response when appropriate.

Northern Minnesota schools have had to make significant budget cuts in recent years, with most districts citing a lack of state funding. What changes to Minnesota's education funding formula do you support, if any? The proposal would begin with financial audits of schools to identify areas where Minnesota tax dollars may be spent inefficiently. Based on the audit findings, schools that agree to operate under the revised budget framework would have their funding restored to 100%. As part of the program, participating schools would submit quarterly reports detailing their expenditures to promote ongoing financial accountability and transparency.

There is a chance that Minnesota will have a split government during the next four years. How would you work across the aisle to govern effectively? Personally, I would rather see a divided government if it means change happens more deliberately. I believe that moving at a slower pace can give Minnesota more time to evaluate policies instead of simply following the latest trends. I would also carefully review any legislation before signing it. If I believe the figures or projected savings presented in a bill are inaccurate or materially overstated, I would withhold my approval until the information is corrected and supported by reliable data.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL: DFL



Keith Ellison*
keithellison.org
Incumbent
Party endorsed



David J.S. Madgett*
madgettformn.com

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE: REPUBLICANS



Tad Jude
tadjude.com
Party endorsed



Wendy Phillips*
wendyforsos.com

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.

Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE: REPUBLICANS



Age on Election Day: 74
Community: Maple Grove

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 created.

Tad Jude

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 choose you to advance to the general election? 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.

Please describe the roles and responsibilities of the office you are running for. The Secretary of State's office has four primary duties: 1) overseeing elections in Minnesota; 2) managing business and non-profit registration and related filings; 3) maintaining Minnesota's official records and publications, such as the Minnesota Blue Book, State Seal, and State Flag; and 4) serving as a member of the Minnesota Executive Council, convene the Minnesota House of Representatives and other issues designated by Minnesota Law. The decisions of this office impact every voter, taxpayer, and entrepreneur in this state.

(continued on page 38)

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE: REPUBLICANS

Tad Jude (continued)

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. 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.

How should the Minnesota Secretary of State respond to election-related demands from the federal government?

Some argue that we have to choose between privacy and election integrity. I don't agree. The data the federal government is seeking to review is generally data it originally issued. Before acting, I would make sure any data that must be kept private for safety reasons stays private. Once those concerns are addressed, I will cooperate with the federal government to ensure our voter rolls are accurate and up to date. I believe in transparency. Clean voter rolls have nothing to hide.

How would you support local election offices?

Our elections are run by city, county, township, and school district offices, and they need to know the Secretary of State has their support. Whether it is clear guidance, new technologies, or robust training, partnering with the people on the frontlines will be a top priority in my administration.

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

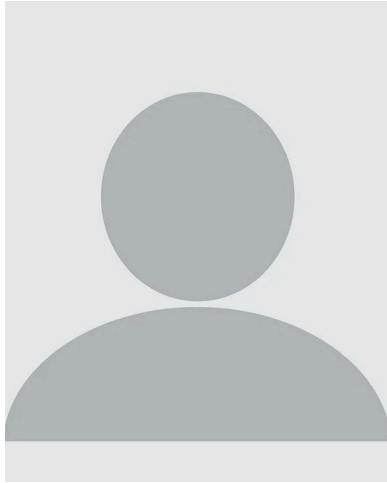
I support requiring a photo ID to vote. Voting is the bedrock of our government. Every law that is passed that touches you or your family is enacted because of an election. And because of the significance of our elections, the entire process needs to be safeguarded, including the requirement of a photo 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.

What role do you think politics should play in this office?

Voting and the integrity of our elections should never be political. The truth is, Americans largely agree our elections should be secure. In fact, 80% of Americans agree we should require a photo ID. That's just one election integrity issue, but I believe we agree on more than we disagree on when it comes to voting. I'm a former judge. I understand that politics can't influence the job, and I know how to apply the law fairly and consistently to achieve the best outcomes for everyone. The function of this office is to protect the vote, not to advance a political agenda.

Editor's note: Yes, roughly 80% of Americans support requiring a photo ID to vote.

MINNESOTA AUDITOR: REPUBLICANS



Will Finn*
linktr.ee/willfinn26



Nate George
nategeorgeformnstateauditor.com
Party endorsed



Scott Jensen
drscottjensen.com

*Candidate did not respond to KAXE's survey.
Candidate campaign website as reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

MINNESOTA AUDITOR: REPUBLICANS



Age on Election Day:
(no answer)

Community: Braham

Where are you currently employed, and what is your role? Mayor of Braham, Director of Investigations for a Gaming Regulatory Agency

Please share any prior experience and education that you believe qualifies you for office. Auditing & compliance, fraud investigations, criminal investigations, administrative law, Certified Paralegal, Certified Fraud Examiner, local government finances, executive leadership, decorated combat veteran

Editor's note: George is not a Certified Fraud Examiner, according to [MinnPost](#). That designation is awarded by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Nate George

Why are you running? The most highly qualified candidate in the race in 50 years. I am the only one with the background, education and experience in every core responsibility of the State Auditor's Office. Electing politicians with no background or experience in this role is directly linked to rising government spending year over year for half a decade. We can't keep electing people with no business being in this office and expecting a different outcome. It's time to get an expert in the role, who can honestly deliver tangible results and stemming the rise of property taxes by keeping government accountable to how tax dollars are spent.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? Being a good doctor or good accountant, doesn't make you a good auditor any more than it makes you a good mechanic. Knowing how to balance a checkbook is not remotely close to knowing how to perform professional audits or knowing what to look for in rooting out fraud in public finances. Not having an expert auditor as our State Auditor has allowed government spending to rise year over year for the last 50 years. It's time we stop electing people into offices they have no business being in. It's time we take advantage of the opportunity to elect the most highly qualified person for this office in 50 years. The last thing we want is someone who knows how to cover their own tracks. It's time we get real tangible results instead of rhetoric and incompetency.

Please describe the roles and responsibilities of the office you are running for. Auditing and oversight of local government finances. Sets auditing standards for audits of local governments. Investigates complaints or suspicions of fraud or misuse of public funds. Builds cases and refers for prosecution to County Attorneys or Attorney General. Recognizes and identifies best practices in local government fiscal management and shares with other local governments across the state. Collects, analyzes and reports on information regarding financial sustainability of local government to State Legislature and Governor.

What are your top three priorities, if elected? Please describe specific goals. Streamline the office with more proactive tracking tools and monitoring of local government finances. Reduce government spending by aggressive consistent auditing and corrective actions of poor fiscal management practices. Holding those accountable who enable public funds fraud or misuse by enacting a Joint Task Force with the Attorney Generals Office to collaborate on fraud investigations and prosecutions.

MINNESOTA AUDITOR: REPUBLICANS



Age on Election Day: 71
Community: Chaska

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

Scott Jensen

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 current 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.

Editor's note: The state Department of Human Services audits county human service funds and is responsible for county human services oversight.

Why should voters choose you to advance to the general election? 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.

(continued on page 42)

MINNESOTA AUDITOR: REPUBLICANS

Scott Jensen (continued)

Please describe the roles and responsibilities of the office you are running for.

First and foremost, the State Auditor is a LEADER who serves the citizens of Minnesota! Through its seven divisions, the role of the office is to monitor financial conduct and verify compliance by overseeing the finances of local municipalities - counties, cities, towns, and school districts - in order to ensure financial integrity and accountability. The OSA reviews investments, financial reporting, and compliance of hundreds of local public pension plans. In all, the OSA oversees approximately \$60 billion in annual local government finances. The OSA is the lead agency for the federal statewide single audit. The OSA sits on six state boards and the Executive Council. Most importantly, the State Auditor is an executive leader who reports to all Minnesotans and functions independently of the Governor.

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:

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.