

2020 ELECTION QUESTIONS – LEGISLATURE

Top priority: If elected, what is your top priority for the 2021 Legislature? Why are you running for office?

COVID-19: How do you grade the state government's response to the pandemic? Are additional measures necessary? If so, what?

Gridlock: What specific measures do you support to reduce the increasing partisanship of the lawmaking process and resulting gridlock? Do you support reforms that would prohibit consolidating multiple subjects into a single omnibus bill?

Budget: The Legislature will be tasked with adopting a two-year budget in 2021 with a looming shortfall due to the financial impact of COVID-19. What will be your approach to balancing the budget in terms of reducing spending and/or raising taxes and fees? Be as specific as possible.

Education, K-12: COVID-19 resulted in dramatic changes to the delivery of education. What weaknesses in the system were highlighted by distance learning? Did we identify any best practices that should be incorporated in the post-pandemic era?

Education, higher ed: Prior to the pandemic, many employers were challenged to find qualified workers. Now we're faced with unemployment as many businesses are downsizing or closing. Is our higher ed system equipped to pivot and train workers for the changing business landscape?

Health care: Affordable health care remains a concern to many Minnesotans. Do you support expansion of government-run health insurance plans? If not, what options do you support to stabilize health insurance premiums?

Workplace regulations: Mandated paid family and medical leave for all Minnesota employers was debated in 2020. It passed the House but failed in the Senate. Do you support such a mandate? Why or why not?

Transportation: What is your preference for raising additional money for roads and bridges? Or is current funding sufficient?

Energy: Should Minnesota increase its renewable energy mandates on utilities? Or are market forces sufficient to promote sustainability?

Police reform: Police reform has become center stage since the George Floyd death and prompted passage of legislation during the special session. Did the laws go far enough or too far? Should the Legislature take additional measures?

Public notices: Some local government bodies continue to push for eliminating public notices from newspapers and moving them to government websites, even though independent research continues to show that far more people see the notices when they're published in newspapers and on newspaper websites, and that removing them from newspapers would in fact save very little money. What's your view on permitting important public notices to be disseminated only by local government bodies by means of their own websites?

Emergency Powers: Do you believe the emergency powers act should be changed to alter the governor's peacetime emergency powers? If so, how?

Other issues: Are there other issues you want to address?

Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.