

1. Vote YES for up to 42 Resolutions. You may vote ELECTRONICALLY or by PAPER BALLOT, not both. Duplicate ballots will not be counted. Sign your ballot per instructions. Submit your ballot by the closing gavel of the convention.

2. The 42 resolutions with the most YES votes, as long as they meet the threshold 60% or more of the total ballots submitted, are forwarded to the DFL for consideration at the State DFL Convention in June.

Important: If 100 ballots are submitted, there must be 60 YES votes. NO votes + BLANKS = NO votes.

Example: 100 ballots cast: Resolution #65: 55 YES votes, 30 NO votes + 25 blank votes = resolution is NOT forwarded.

3. The number in brackets [#] is the number of precincts that passed that resolution by a majority vote. All precincts did not hear all resolutions. Similar resolutions heard in several precincts did not pass in all precincts. There are 26 precincts in in SD40.

4. The SD40 Resolutions Committee edited the 1-3 supporting statements for clarity and brevity.

5. Resolutions adopted by the SD40 Convention are sent to the state DFL consideration at the June state convention and resolutions adopted set the platform for the next two years.

Many thanks for your consideration of these issues important to fellow DFLers in SD40.

RESOLUTIONS TABLE OF CONTENTS BY CATEGORY

Agriculture, Food, & Land Stewardship

- 1 Protect Groundwater Quantity - Better Management [2]
2 Groundwater Quality - Private Well Testing
3 Prohibit Neonicotinoid Insecticide Use [2]

Civil, Human & Constitutional Rights

- 4 Protect Voting Rights [2]
5 Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment [6]
6 We The People - Citizens United
7 Academic Freedom
8 Oppose White Christian Nationalism [2]
9 Repeal Minnesota's Anti-boycott Laws
10 Focus on Issues at Home

Consumer Protection

- 11 Protection and Support for Scam Victims [3]
12 Anti-Corporatization in Health Care
13 Save Medicare from Total Privatization

Education

- 14 Free College Education for All

Energy & Climate

- 15 Increase Utility Accountability
16 Reform Clean Energy Transmission Permitting [2]
17 Invest in Zero Emissions Homes

Government Accountability to the Public

- 18 Data Practices in Digital Era
19 Redistricting Reform
20 Ranked Choice Voting Local Options [4]
21 No Rollbacks on Environmental Laws
22 Revise Money in Politics
23 Metropolitan Council Oversight

Health & Human Services

- 24 Universal Single Payer Health Care [5]
25 End-of-Life Options [4]
26 Medical Assistance Freedom to Choose
27 Aging in Place
28 Silver Alert (Senior Amber Alert)

- 29 Increasing Eldercare Rates and Wages
30 First Responder Neurodivergent Training
31 Childcare Costs – 7% of Income
32 Affordable Housing as Infrastructure
33 Remove Flavored Tobacco from Market
34 Get the Lead Out – Pipes

Labor & Employment

- 35 \$25/hr Minimum Wage
36 Strengthen Broadband Worker Safety
37 Crack Down on Worker Misclassification [2]
38 Safe Staffing for Nurses
39 Unemployment for Striking Workers
40 Prevent Exploitation: Publicly-Financed Housing [2]

National Security & International Policy

- 41 End Offensive Arms Sales to Israel
42 Call for Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

Natural Resources & the Environment

- 43 Prove It First – Safe Mining
44 Preserve Minnesota Natural Spaces
45 Public Lands Use Protections – ATVs
46 Reduce Plastic Waste
47 Ban Toxins in Plastic Packaging
48 Get the Lead Out – Ammunition & Fishing Tackle

Public Safety & Crime Prevention

- 49 Require Headlights Stay On 24-hours
50 Change Headlights Height on Trucks
51 Gun Violence Safety, Safe Storage [2]

Retirement Security

- 52 Sustainable Investing [2]
53 Divest from Human Rights Violations

Transportation

- 54 Reconnect Communities Destroyed by Highways

Local or Party Issues

- 55 Constituent Input

Each resolution begins is prefaced by the phrase:

Be it resolved that: The DFL . .

Agriculture, Food, & Land Stewardship

1 Protect Groundwater Quantity - Better Management [2]

Supports new groundwater laws, regional management, and state oversight of aquifers to assure that conservation measures are followed, surface waters are protected, and future demand does not exceed the aquifer's capacity for recharge amid climate change and regional population growth.

- Groundwater provides 70% of Minnesota's drinking water and virtually all of our agricultural irrigation water but is "invisible" and, therefore, ignored.
- Current groundwater withdrawal laws are outdated and are failing to protect aquifers in the face of growing irrigation, increasing municipal use, and climate change.
- Allocations should prioritize existing uses and fair distribution among users

2 Groundwater Quality - Private Well Testing

Supports protecting the health of MN private well owners from the hazards of contaminated water by providing free water testing and safe alternative sources of drinking water or water treatment systems for impacted wells. AND supports a “fertilizer fee” to pay for mitigation for private wells from nitrate contamination.

- Municipal water supplies are regularly tested but private wells are not, so homeowners are often not aware of contamination. Nitrates are common as are other contaminants such as PFAS, and arsenic which are harmful even at very low levels.
- Nitrate contamination of groundwater is common and increasing in several agricultural regions of Minnesota, especially the SE Karst Region.
- Recovery from nitrate contamination can take many decades, active remediation practices need to be developed.

3 Prohibit Neonicotinoid Insecticide Use [2]

Urges the US Environmental Protection Agency and MN Department of Agriculture to prohibit the use of dangerous pesticides, particularly neonicotinoid insecticides, in order to protect the health of the environment, pollinators, wild life and humans

- Neonicotinoids (neonics) are long connected to mass loss of the bees critical to Minnesota's agricultural economy and environment. In May 2023, the U.S. EPA reported the unprecedented finding that neonics are the most ecologically destructive insecticide since DDT and are contaminating land, surface waters, groundwater, food crops and wildlife.
- The pesticides have been linked with mass losses of birds, the collapse of aquatic ecosystems and birth defects in deer and other terrestrial animals. One neonic-coated seed contains enough insecticide to kill 250,000 bees or a songbird.
- Health experts have raised alarms about accumulation in water supplies and human bodies, including rising levels of neonics in pregnant women (95% of women tested) and have been linked with increased risk of birth defects of the heart and brain.

Civil, Human & Constitutional Rights

4 Protect Voting Rights [2]

In order to ensure safe, free, democratize elections, support state and local government commitment to:

1. protect election officials if threats are made against them;
2. prevent the presence of those seeking to intimidate voters;
3. and actively enforce punishment for such activity as described by Minnesota state statute;

4. prohibit attempts to impersonate election officials;
5. make secure absentee ballot boxes available and accessible regardless of zip code;
6. provide materials and interpretation support in the languages spoken by communities;
7. ensure polling places are welcoming to all voters.

- Representative democracy is our foundational political system, existing to ensure equal treatment and fair representation for all.
- We use this democratic system to broaden and deepen constitutional rights belonging to all. Those rights and that system are under threat.
- Supports state and local government commitment to ensure safe, free, democratic elections by:
 - protecting election officials from threats;
 - preventing voter intimidation and enforcing punishment according to state statute; - prohibiting impersonation of election officials;
 - and making voting welcoming, available and accessible to all by placing secure absentee ballot boxes in all zip codes and providing materials and interpretation support in the languages spoken by communities.

5 Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment [6]

Supports, as a top priority, the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment to ensure the rights of all Minnesotans are secured by 1) passage of the law in 2024, and 2) a robust successful state ERA ballot initiative.

- [Note: The 2024 bill supports putting the MN ERA on the November ballot up for constitutional adoption in fall 2024 election. The next time it could up is fall 2026.]
- The proposed Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment will provide, when adopted as by the voters as a state constitutional amendment, the strongest protections regardless of race, color, ancestry, country of origin, disability, and sex including pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
- Constitutionalizing the ERA affirms MN values and helps to prevent future Legislatures and courts from rescinding our rights including freedom from discrimination in word and in effect and freedom from harassment, abuse and prejudice.

6 We The People - Citizen's United

Supports defending democracy, a system of government in which power is vested in the people, and calls for an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that 1) Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights, and 2) Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech. And supports legislation to amend the U.S. Constitution accordingly as written in Minnesota SF 384 (Marty) and HF 1064 (Hollins) and U.S. Congress HJR54 (Jayapal).

- Both the definition of 'individual' and to whom 'free speech' applies have eroded . U.S. Supreme Court decisions over the past 100+ years have given artificial entities rights intended only for natural persons.
- Since 1976, U.S. Supreme Court decisions (2010 Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and others) have declared that spending money to influence our elections, whether by individuals or legal entities, is protected by free speech right.

7 Academic Freedom

Supports that all public state universities and colleges, including the University of Minnesota, respect the tradition of academic freedom and never silence or censor curricula, lectures, or campus organizations, based simply on the possible unpopularity of ideas or on political pressure from financial donors.

- Academic freedom has been a time-honored value in the United States, but has been under attack recently by those who wish to stifle or ban certain political speech.
- The DFL platform should hold academic freedom as one of its highest goals, to encourage discussion, debate and the free exchange of ideas.

8 Oppose White Christian Nationalism [2]

Commits to opposing White Christian nationalism in all forms and considers it a threat to democracy. AND commits to educate voters and its own members about the rising threat of White Christian Nationalism. AND reiterates support for the separation of church and state as enshrined in the US Constitution.

- Theocracy is incompatible with democracy and religious freedom in a pluralistic society. Religious national rhetoric and symbols were prominent in the violent January 6, 2021 storming of the national capitol.
- White Christian Nationalism has used patriotism as a cover for racism, antisemitism, homophobic and islamophobia.

9 Repeal Minnesota's Anti-Boycott Laws

Supports repeal of the anti-boycott laws, Minnesota Statutes 3.226 and 16C.053.S, thereby affirming our commitment to the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

- These laws prevent certain citizens from employment or doing business with the State of Minnesota if they support the Boycott, Divest, Sanction movement (BOS), an international, nonviolent initiative that challenges Israel's denial of human rights to Palestinians. The US Supreme Court has ruled that the right to boycott is protected under the First Amendment.

10 Focus on Issues at Home

Supports putting more resources into solving domestic issues.

Consumer Protection

11 Protection and Support for Scam Victims [3]

Support creation of a state Consumer Fraud Restitution Fund so that fraud victims have a chance to recover financially by allowing the MN Attorney General to sue fraudsters and direct the penalties that pay to a restitution fund that could pay victims who would otherwise have not hope of recovering their losses.

- Fraud schemes include online shopping, use of gift cards, package delivery hoaxes, charity, celebrity and even family imposters potentially using AI, check washing, employment/investment/sales schemes.
- Fraud is being committed in newer, even more challenging ways to steal identifies and billions in assets, particularly from older adults who are less likely to recover financially. Seniors and their families need to be empowered to identify and avoid fraud attempts that cause financial and emotional hardships.

12 Anti-Corporatization in Health Care

Supports preventing the further corporatization of healthcare through legislation that holds nonprofit healthcare organizations accountable to their mission, their tax-exempt status, and their defined legislative purpose for providing a community benefit to the public. AND supports and creates a stronger regulatory system, that provides financial and geographic access to quality healthcare services based on community need and not profit.

- Minnesotans should have access to safe care regardless of race, income, or neighborhood and the state should put the health of people and the dignity of workers before the financial interests of hospitals, hospital executives, and healthcare corporations.
- Minnesota is seeing rural and urban rural and urban closing of hospitals and units due to lack of profit while overall hospital systems and health insurance companies make record profits; and executives make exorbitant salaries.

13 Save Medicare from Total Privatization

Opposes Medicare privatization and urges our federal legislators and the Biden Administration-increase healthcare equity by (1) adding benefits to traditional Medicare now only offered in private Medicare

Advantage plans (vision, dental and hearing, eliminating the 20% Medicare co-pays and setting an out-of-pocket cap), (2) eliminating the excessive administrative costs and profits in the Medicare Advantage and ACO-REACH programs, and (3) recouping funds for the Medicare Trust Fund from fraud and abuse by Medicare Advantage plans and ACO-REACH contractors, as confirmed by the Department of Health & Human Services or Congressional investigations, In order to use the money thus saved to support a robust Traditional Medicare system that will lower costs and improve benefits, access and equity for all beneficiaries.

- Traditional Medicare, created in 1965 as a public good to provide a national health care system for seniors and the disabled in the US, has proven to be efficient and effective with administrative costs accounting for only 2-3% of Medicare spending.
- The HHS Inspector General, academic researchers, and investigative journalists have uncovered wide-ranging fraudulent practices, confirming that upcoding, delaying medically necessary care, and the denial of claims by insurers and other private businesses managing Medicare claims, together account for defrauding Medicare many billions of dollars annually.
- Insurers are fiercely lobbying to gain a larger share of the soon-to-be \$1.6 trillion of annual Medicare spending.

Education

14 Free College Education for All

Supports free education for all high school graduates for post-secondary education for certificate or degree programs through a four-year college degree.

Energy & Climate

15 Increase Utility Accountability

Supports Utility Accountability legislation to protect energy customers from paying for inappropriate expenses that should be paid by the utilities. AND supports prohibitions on customers paying for utilities' political influence activities including lobbying, membership in industry trade associations that advocate for utility interests, and marketing initiatives or event sponsorships; and expanded disclosures to ensure transparency, and enforcement mechanisms to encourage compliance. AND supports capping the portion of utility executives' compensation that is paid by customers.

16 Reform Clean Energy Transmission Permitting [2]

Supports transitioning Minnesota off fossil fuels including natural gas as quickly as possible and as soon as any other state in the country by accelerating the building and connection of energy transmission projects. AND supports making the regulatory process shorter, more predictable and more uniform. AND supports keeping elements of public engagement and environmental review that Minnesotans value.

- We appreciate last Sessions' efforts to pass the 100% clean energy electricity bill. However, it takes over a decade to build a new transmission line. The US has expanded its electricity transmission infrastructure just 1% per year and needs to triple that to transmit clean electricity by 2050 and meet our carbon emissions reduction goals.
- Better permitting allows local communities to give input early in the process and choose the good projects over the bad ones.

17 Invest in Zero Emissions Homes

Supports investing in an equitable transition to zero greenhouse gas emission residences in Minnesota by 2050.

Government Accountability to the Public

18 Data Practices in Digital Era

Supports modernizing the Minnesota Data Practices Act and Open Meeting laws given the digital transformation of society since the adoption of these laws.

19 Redistricting Reform

Supports establishing of an independent citizen redistricting commission through a constitutional amendment (with an advisory redistricting commission as a back-up if the independent commission ballot measure fails) made up of public members representative of Minnesota's diversity, partisan balance, and geography, for future redistricting. This citizen redistricting commission will create maps for the state Senate and House as well as congressional districts, not constrained to a least-change approach, in a transparent manner with full opportunities for public input, review and participation.

- State legislators control the current redistricting process which creates a conflict of interest that benefit political parties over the people's interests, while failing to fully account for demographic changes and community needs.
- Redistricting should reflect the interests, concerns, and diversity; and prioritize transparency, public engagement, federal Voting Rights Act protections, Native Lands representation, and respect for communities of interest, which do not exist cleanly within political or geographic boundaries.

20 Ranked Choice Voting Local Options [4]

Supports Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options legislation allowing all cities, counties, and school districts the option to adopt RCV.

- Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) empowers voters to rank candidates in order of preference and ensures candidates earn majority support to win. Current law permits only charter cities with odd-year elections to use RCV without special permission.
- RCV is more efficient and cost effective because it combines the primary and general elections into one election in November. It gives choice to voters of all political ideologies; helps promote candidates reach across the aisle and build broad majority coalitions; reduces political polarization and extremism; eliminates vote splitting and the spoiler problem; and promotes more inclusive, diverse and representative elections.

21 No Rollbacks on Environmental Laws

Opposes any effort to circumvent or weaken state or federal environmental laws or protections involving administrative procedures and permitting.

- Corporate interests backed by members of both major parties have eroded environmental protections by weakening or bypassing permitting laws, undoing rules and policies, and not enforcing existing safeguards such as the Clean Water Rule.
- With Minnesota facing climate change, water pollution, and emerging contaminants, we cannot afford regulatory rollbacks that benefit big polluters at the expense of public health and natural resources.

22 Revise Money in Politics

Supports a statewide small donor matching program and digital modernization of the Political Contribution Refund to strengthen our campaign finance laws and shift the balance of power to make sure Minnesotans are at the center of our democracy.

- Current campaign finance disclosure allows dark money and wealthy special interests to control our decision making processes. And current campaign public financing, not revisited since the 1980's, needs to ensure equitable public participation and investment in campaigns.
- And current campaign public financing, not revisited since the 1980's, needs to ensure equitable public participation and investment in campaigns.

23 Metropolitan Council Oversight

Supports the Minnesota House having formal oversight over the Metropolitan Council operations and spending. Particular attention needs to be paid to Metropolitan Council cost management and the construction of the new Southwest Twin Cities Light Rail project.

Health & Human Services

24 Universal Single Payer Health Care [5]

Prioritizes and commits significant resources for a campaign to promote legislation for a patient-centered healthcare system, the Minnesota Health Plan (Marty) in MN and the Medicare for All Act of 2023 (Jayapal) in the US. With Universal Single Payer Health Care/Medicare for All: residents will be healthier; everyone is covered without fear of medical debt; patients choose their doctor; health/prevention of poor health is emphasized; profit-driven insurance companies do not get to deny care or override doctor's decisions; doctors get to provide care instead of managing insurance company profits; the complex bureaucracy of "who-pays" is eliminated, reducing administrative costs making the system simpler for all to understand.

- Some 250,000 Minnesotans have no health insurance and a million who have insurance cannot afford their medical bills due to co-pays, deductibles, and care not covered - even when paying high premiums. The Plan would provide a single, statewide plan and cover all Minnesotans for all their medical needs — from cradle-to-grave.
- Benefits include coverage of all necessary care, including: dental, vision, hearing, mental health, chemical dependency treatment, prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, and long-term care - all with no deductibles or co-pays.

25 End-of-Life Options [4]

Supports passage of the End-of-Life Options Act, affirming that terminally-ill, mentally capable adults should have the freedom to request, obtain and self-administer medication for a peaceful death.

- Ten states and the District of Columbia authorized medical aid in dying to allow for peaceful death should suffering become unbearable, but, in Minnesota, this practice is a crime.
- End-of-life decisions are private and should be made by patients, their families and healthcare team in accordance with their personal values.
- A large majority of Minnesotans (68-73%) support medical aid in dying as an end-of-life option including Democrats (87%) and Republicans (53%) (Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives State Fair Poll 2016).

26 Medical Assistance Freedom to Choose

Supports restoring equal access to all Medical Assistance patients to choose their own doctors, other health care providers, and hospitals, thereby eliminating discrimination, enforced by state government, among Medical Assistance patients.

- SF 404, HF 816 are endorsed by Health Care for All MN, Our Revolution MN, MN Nurses Association and the DFL Progressive Caucus.

27 Aging in Place

Support funding for state programs to help seniors age in place including community-based nonprofit senior support organizations who would direct flexible state funded services to seniors and their families based on their needs, and to ensure a wider range of services, including Senior community building.

- Surveys (MRRC, AARP, US Housing & Urban Development) say 80-90% of US seniors want to age in place including homeowners and those living in rental, condominium, and co-op housing.
- Assistance for aging in place is often provided by families and volunteers and can be fragmented and burdensome.

- Current MN funding for age-in-place seniors can be confusing to access, and do not fully connect with community based nonprofits, the backbone of support for seniors.
- [From MN State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO]

28 Silver Alert (Senior Amber Alert)

Supports adding a free Minnesota Silver Alert System to the existing Amber Alert System to let communities know that an elderly citizen with mental disabilities or dementia has wandered away from their residence and to report potential sightings of that citizen to law enforcement.

- MNs ages 65+ increased from 683,000 (2010, 13% of MNs) to 950,000 (2020, 17% of MNs) (source: 2020 Census). As this trend continues, the DFL Party needs to support changes in state requirements that help to keep all seniors safer.

29 Increasing Eldercare Rates and Wages

Supports fixes to senior care finance problems including care providers' wages, eldercare rates, and delays in reimbursement to nursing homes, which lead to shortages of skilled staff and of senior care facilities: 1) Allot state funds for senior caregiver wage increases via an increase in the per day rate to nursing homes; 2) Require the MN Department of Human Services to annually update wage data used to calculate Elder Waiver rates; 3) Eliminate delays in reimbursement to nursing home providers. \

- Nearly 20% of nursing home positions are unfilled. Consistent care is important for vulnerable elderly family who may not be able to communicate well. Compassionate staff need a livable wage and benefits. A \$52/day rate increase for nursing homes - requires a plan and DHS audit - should result in minimum wages of \$25/hr.
- The 2023 Legislature established a better payment framework for Elder Waivers but locks important comparison benchmarks to 2017 wage data and do not have an updating function, the only Medicaid waiver that does not.
- Nursing home providers must wait 15-27 months for payments for the actual cost of care provided, a payment system that should be addressed. At a minimum, adding an inflation factor would covers the period between cost report and rate attainment. [1-2-3 from Long Term Care Imperative fact sheet]

30 First Responder Neurodivergent Training

Supports first responders, emergency department medical staff, and hospital security receiving training designated to understanding how to deescalate neurodivergent meltdowns.

- Neurodivergent people of all ages and backgrounds seek emergency medical attention, but are expected to sit still and quiet. Wait times for a room are typically a minimum of three hours, but at times have been in excess of 24 hours. Individuals are often left without any way to self-regulate.

31 Childcare Costs - 7% of Income

Supports funding our childcare system so that no family pays more than 7% of their annual income for childcare, all children have access to high quality childcare, and childcare providers have the resources they need to provide workers with living wages.

- Studies have shown that children birth-5 benefit from high quality childcare yet childcare is unaffordable for most families. In MN costs far higher than the national average and above 7% of a family's annual income.

32 Affordable Housing as Infrastructure

Supports the Federal government and all government entities including affordable housing as critical infrastructure when planning their budgets: 1) affordable housing, from 30% AMI to 80% AMI in rental units; 2) housing for individuals experiencing homelessness; 3) affordable mortgages to enable the "Building of Wealth" by minority populations; 4) affordable housing that enables workers to live near their workplace, and 5) affordable housing preservation.

- AMI = area median income

33 Remove Flavored Tobacco from Market

Support ending the sale of all flavored commercial tobacco products, including menthol/e-cigarettes, flavored cigars/hookah, and smokeless tobacco.

- Tobacco kills more than 6,300 Minnesotans/yr; Minnesotans pay more than \$3.19 billion annually on tobacco related illnesses; 20.5% of high school and 4.1% middle school students use tobacco products.
- Removing flavored tobacco from the marketplace will address disparities caused by Big Tobacco's unjust and lethal tactics.

34 Get the Lead Out – Pipes

Supports the reduction of lead exposure in people and animals by eliminating lead in drinking water, by mapping and replacing all lead waterpipes by 2023, investing in lead remediation in Minnesota homes and other locations.

- There is no safe level of lead. Lead exposure can damage the brain, kidneys, and nervous system, and, among children, it contributes to slowed development and problems with learning, behavior, and hearing.
- Minnesota has an estimated 100,000 or more lead service lines --the tenth-highest number of lead pipes per capita in the U.S., exposing residents to dangerous lead contamination in drinking water at a rate much higher than the national average.

Labor & Employment

35 \$25/hr Minimum Wage

Supports a statewide \$25 minimum wage with One Fair Wage for all workers, with no Tip Penalty.

- Our current state minimum wage (\$10.85) does not allow workers to care for themselves and their families. Inflation and the pandemic have brought economic hardship to working families in Minnesota while corporations and CEOs have record profits.
- A \$25 minimum wage by 2025 would help tens of thousands of workers—especially greater Minnesotans, women, and people of color—to prosper, and would help put millions of dollars into our local economy, not CEOs' pocket

36 Strengthen Broadband Worker Safety

Supports raising standards for broadband installation, including requiring use of a skilled, well-trained workforce to ensure worker and public safety, and to protect the integrity of existing public and utility infrastructure.

- Too many MNs still lack reliable high-speed internet services to access healthcare, education, and business opportunities. While Minnesota invests \$1 billion to close the digital divide, broadband installers face low wages, poor benefits, inadequate training, and high turnover, leading to unsafe practices and damaging strikes on existing gas, electric, and other utility lines.
- State leaders must hold companies responsible for unsafe practices, and steer public dollars toward contractors that provide family-supporting jobs and high-quality training.

37 Crack Down on Worker Misclassification [2]

Supports legislation that requires use of the ABC test to ensure workers are properly classified [as employees, not independent contractors] and an enjoy the rights, protections, and benefits they deserve as employees.

- Many employers across industries illegally misclassify employees as independent contractors to avoid providing labor rights and protections like minimum wage, overtime pay, unemployment benefits, collective bargaining rights, and paid leave, all while treating them like employees.

- While progress was made on paid leave and collective bargaining in 2023, stronger enforcement of worker misclassification laws is needed to discourage these unfair and illegal employer practices that deprive workers of their rightful protections.

38 **Safe Staffing for Nurses**

Supports, safe staffing legislation that sets a minimum number of patients that a registered nurse (RN) can for at one time; and provides mental health and professional development resources that will keep Minnesota nurses working at the bedside.

- The pandemic laid bare long-standing issues of inadequate nurse staffing in MN hospitals and health systems due to corporate decisions. MN has no RN-to-patient standard.
- Nurse staffing affects patient outcomes; falls, infections, pressure ulcers, and even deaths increase the more patients a nurse is assigned. Keeping RNs at the bedside is the most reliable, cost-effective way to ensure high-quality care that protects both patients and staff.

39 **Unemployment for Striking Workers**

Supports amending unemployment insurance benefits to workers on strike and whenever an employer engages a permanent or temporary replacement worker.

- In 2023, there was a surge in strikes across the U.S., with over 200 strikes involving 320,000 workers. Only two states (NY & NJ) provide unemployment benefits to striking workers, a policy that better balances power between workers and employers by allowing striking workers to meet basic expenses until returning to work.
- Allowing access to unemployment insurance for striking workers in MN would benefit families, communities, and the economy by empowering collective bargaining—a crucial tool for improving pay and conditions in an environment where labor laws heavily favor employers through tactics like temporary replacements, healthcare cutoffs, and stalled negotiations.

40 **Prevent Exploitation: Publicly-Financed Housing [2]**

Supports critically needed investments in housing infrastructure and ensures that all forms of public financing include high-road labor standards, greater levels of transparency and project owner accountability.

- Minnesota faces a critical shortage of affordable housing. State and local governments are stepping up to help finance new projects with grants and tax incentives. Unfortunately, public money is being channeled to developers that build new housing projects engaging in wage theft and other forms of abuse.
- Developers that receive public funds should be required to hire responsible contractors and use best practices to prevent tax fraud, wage theft and exploitation.

National Security & International Policy

41 **End Offensive Arms Sales to Israel**

Supports, upon the release of all hostages, that the US ends the provision of all offensive weapons, ammunition for the same, or money utilized for the same to the state of Israel.

- Nearly 30,000 Palestinians have lost their lives - many women and children - since the state of Israel began offensive operations following the October 7th massacre of 1200 Israelis. During the 20-year US occupation of Afghanistan, 12,000 civilians lost their lives. Loss in Gaza must stop.

42 **Call for Immediate Ceasefire**

Supports calling on the Biden Administration and Minnesota members of Congress to immediately cease US military and financial aid to Israel, demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire to hostilities against Palestinians and resume and increase funding of UNRWA in order to provide necessary humanitarian assistance to the besieged and bombed Gaza Strip.

- The International Court of Justice found it plausible that Israel is committing a genocide in Gaza. The US is a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- The Biden administration should end its military aid to a country which is plausibly accused of genocide, both as an international law obligation and a U.S. law obligation (Leahy Law). It is critical to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilian populations.

Natural Resources & the Environment

43 Prove It First - Safe Mining

Supports the Prove It First which would require a company seeking to open a copper-nickel sulfide mine in MN to first prove there is at least one example of a sulfide mine that has operated elsewhere in the US without polluting before this type of mining is done in MN. AND supports the Governor withholding all permits for copper-nickel sulfide mines in Minnesota until it can first be proven that such mines can be operated safely in our water-rich environment and not violate state, federal, and tribal water quality standards.

- Copper-nickel sulfide mining produces significant quantities of sulfuric acid (much different than taconite mining) that threaten the Boundary Waters, Lake Superior, and the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

44 Preserve Minnesota Natural Spaces

Support accelerated action to protect, restore, and improve management of forests, prairie, and wetlands to fight climate change and preserve natural places for people and wildlife.

- UN Global Framework states that globally, 30% of land and sea areas must be environmentally managed and well-connected, particularly in biodiverse and environmentally critical areas. We support accelerated action in MN to meet UN Global standards and Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions goals.
- This effort includes but is not limited to expanding forest lands, protecting peat lands, buffering surface waters via DNR easements and other means, and restoring meaningful acres of tall grass prairie, and expanding parks and green spaces in our cities and towns.

45 Public Lands Use Protections – ATVs

Support common sense measures, including required adequate buffer zones, access to signed trails only, and environmental assessments, to protect and preserve habitat and waters on public lands from off road vehicle (e.g., ATV) impacts.

- Multi-million-dollar trail expansion is in progress, including three DNR statewide Master Plans (for ATV, ORV, OHM-motorcycles) adding to the 4,000 miles of known legal trails on state and federal lands, not including county mileage.
- No cost-benefit analysis has been done relating to trail creation, maintenance, EMS, law enforcement, effects on other recreation, and environmental damage. Environmental impact includes invasive species dispersal (a multi-billion-dollar burden to MN), and diminishes the availability of medicinal herbs and foraged plants.
- DNR's 2008 Trail Planning, Design & Development Guidelines are voluntary [and dated]. However, current state trails should not be modified to reduce ecological impact if changes would diminish the value to the targeted user.

46 Reduce Plastic Waste

Supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging, requiring producers to collect 70% of the plastic packaging they generate within five years (2029) and reduce the plastic packaging they produce by 50% within ten years (2034). AND supports prohibiting ALL toxic substances and materials in plastic packaging.

- Plastic pollution is a global problem. Change is needed in its production, usage, and post-usage.
- EPR, a policy approach, assigns producers greater responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products and encourages innovations in product design. Hundreds of chemicals used in making plastic, most are derived from fossil fuels, several are toxic which should be banned.

47 **Ban Toxins in Plastic Packaging**

Supports a ban on toxic chemicals and materials commonly found in plastic packaging, beginning on January 1, 2026. Each of the chemicals are either known carcinogens (cancer-causing), endocrine (hormone) disrupting or neuro-toxicants.

- Food and drinks packaged in plastics absorb its chemicals. This chemicals mimic hormones and can cause obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart, autoimmune, neurological, and lung diseases since the chemicals mimic hormones. Reproductive signals are also disrupted, speeding up puberty, low sperm counts, and infertility.
- Some of the chemicals are carcinogens - causing breast, prostate, and testicular cancer. The effects on fetuses and children are also profound. They can cause stillbirths, birth defects of the reproductive organs, impaired lung growth, and childhood cancer.
- The Annals of Global Health in 2023 conservatively estimated that Americans spent over \$1.5 billion health care costs related to plastics in 2015.

48 **Get the Lead Out - Ammunition & Fishing Tackle**

Supports the reduction of lead exposure in people and animals by banning the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle.

- Loons, swans, and ether waterfowl are threatened by lead tackle in Minnesota lakes. Eagles are particularly threatened because, they are primarily scavengers and consume deer entrails containing lead shot left by hunters. Voluntary compliance is the status in Minnesota for most hunting and fishing, but according to the DNR, has failed.
- Many states have chosen to ban the use of lead, all or in part, in fishing and/or hunting due to damage to wildlife. MN DNR rejects a wholesale ban on lead saying other states only ban some use of lead, and about half of MN hunters prefer to keep using lead.

Public Safety & Crime Prevention

49 **Require Headlights Stay on 24-hous**

Supports vehicles in Minnesota being required to be driven with headlights on 24 hours a day.

- Whether because automatic headlight settings on newer cars are not engaged, or headlights are not turned on in older cars, in all manner of lowlight situations-such as early morning or evening, snow, rain, etc., many vehicles operate with no headlights on.
- Many countries throughout the world, including Canada, have such a requirement.
- [Reference: Minnesota Statute 169.48 requires lights at night and when precipitating]

50 **Change Headlights Height on Trucks**

Supports all headlights being at the same height above street surface with tires inflated to manufacturer's specified pressure for 2 Ton pickup trucks, including SUVs, or equivalent.

- Action by Congress will be needed.

51 **Gun Violence Safety, Safe Storage [2]**

Supports prohibition of firearms in the state capitol building and grounds, stiffer penalties for crime guns from straw purchasing, and the ban of public sale and ownership of military-style and high-capacity magazines, and safe storage of guns (HF396, SF916).

- Unsecure red guns pose clear safety issues, especially to children, when guns not stored safely and securely, they are accessible to minors, increasing significantly the risk of injury or death.
- Unsecured guns are also more susceptible to theft and the possibility of being used in violent crimes.

Retirement Security

52 Sustainable Investing [2]

Supports empowering the Minnesota State Board of Investments to consider a wide range of factors and risks when making investing decisions including climate and other environmental and social factors.

- [Reference: MN Sustainable Investing Act bill].

53 Divest from Human Rights Violations

Supports the Minnesota State Board of Investment (SBI) divesting from any country or corporation which violates international or US laws prohibiting human rights violations, especially ethnic cleansing, illegal land appropriation, and terror and violence.

- The SBI's mission is as fiduciary to the State's pension fund.

Transportation

54 Reconnect Communities Destroyed by Highways

Supports state and federal resources being directed, out of concern for the welfare of communities negatively impacted by construction of Interstate 94, specifically the Rondo community in Saint Paul where many African Americans were displaced, to 1) address past harms, and 2) set conditions to reestablish the social, cultural, and economic conditions for a prosperous future.

- This will 1) reconnect communities negatively impacted by highway construction and policies from the Federal Highway Act, 2) expand resources diverted toward community future prosperity.

Local or Party Issues

56 Constituent Input

Encourages elected officials to develop a mechanism where the inclusion of the constituents' comments at the decision-making level of policy is enacted.