

DFL Senior Caucus Endorsement Questions for Minnesota Offices

The DFL Senior Caucus promotes the active participation of Minnesota seniors in the political process, giving a voice to seniors in Minnesota elections and politics. Our goal is to affect public policy by bringing focus and accountability to senior issues, and by working to elect public officials who support these issues.

Responses to the questions below must be submitted in the online form accessible by clicking this link: [MN State Office submission form](#).

The DFL Senior Caucus will revoke an endorsement if:

1. You are not endorsed by your convention, or
2. You support a candidate who is running against a DFL-endorsed candidate.

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provide in the first question on the form.

Health, Workforce and Long-Term Care Services

As the state ages, more seniors need help navigating our increasingly complex health and long-term care systems and accessing services to stay in their own homes. Yet we face huge challenges including a lack of affordable long term care insurance options for those not eligible for Medical Assistance, ongoing direct care workforce shortages, and needs for family and caregiver support including transportation (especially in rural areas), childcare, and universal health care for all.

Question: As an elected official, what solutions will you put forward to address these interrelated challenges?

Public Safety

We want your overall ideas for the legislature to improve public safety in Minnesota, and suggest you include reduction of violent crime, training on physical conflict for officers and use of weapons and enforcement of violations, prosecutors deviating from standard treatment of criminals and possible overriding authority, supervision of actions of officers, reduction of recidivism (jobs, housing, peers, etc.), mental and drug issues, guns, mentors, altering treatment of juveniles, possible adding of dollar amounts of money crimes against various victims in charging the crime, recruitment of officers and diversity, changes in the judicial system, and changes in public safety guidelines.

Question: What are your ideas for the legislature to improve public safety in Minnesota?

Transportation

Question: What legislative plans do you have to ensure that communities receive the necessary consideration and funding they need to address their different transportation needs?

Affordable Housing

Minnesota seniors need safe, affordable, and suitable residences to meet their needs. Many seniors pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Low- and middle-income seniors who want to age in place in their homes and apartments face increased costs and other barriers, including taxes, utilities, and maintenance costs and may require subsidies or additional tax relief to stay at home. Many are being forced out of their home by constantly increasing property taxes and government fees. What will you do to help seniors, many on limited income, stay in their homes? Other seniors may need subsidized low-income housing for which there is a great shortage, or affordable residential settings with a need for additional appropriate oversight.

Question: As a legislator how would you address these needs?

Medical Aid in Dying

The DFL Senior Caucus supports legislation that gives terminally ill adults access to a full range of end-of-life options including medical aid in dying.

Question: Will you both support and advocate for the End-of-Life Options Act which allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults to obtain medications that bring about a peaceful death at a time of their choosing?

Public Employee Pension Plans

What will you do to make sure that the pension rights of public employees are not only protected but advanced? We want all your ideas, but they should include maintaining defined benefit plans for those that want them, strong annual increases in benefits, ensuring that defined contribution plans currently offered are protected, maintaining full funding for existing funds so that retirees always get the full amount they are owed and future legislatures and employees don't have to make up for present shortages in government and present employee contributions, and making sure all investments by the government are based solely on the best estimate of what will give the employees the best benefits because it is the employees' and retirees' monies whether paid in by employees or governments.

Question: What will you do to make sure that the pension rights of public employees are not only protected but advanced?

Support to Increase Age-Friendly Communities

Age-Friendly Communities are towns, cities and counties that agree to meet specific AARP standards that enable all residents to be engaged, connected, and be included across the life span. Programs funded include volunteer transportation, collaboratives among in-home services, and accessibility modifications to housing and community buildings. The state has issued grants for development and support of additional Age-Friendly Communities, but this funding is not ongoing.

Question: How will you support ongoing efforts to increase the number of Age-Friendly communities across the state and work to continue funding these grants?

DFL Senior Caucus Communications

Question: How will you keep the DFL Senior Caucus informed on issues relevant to seniors and to solicit our input? (Posting on social media is not sufficient.)

Universal Health Care

The DFL Senior Caucus supports legislation for government sponsored "universal" healthcare, wherein "universal" means all persons are fully covered for healthcare.

Question: What can you do to bring us closer to Universal Health Care?

Climate Change

Climate change is hurting worldwide economics and political stability. We must dramatically reduce the burning of fossil fuels and manage other greenhouse gasses to avoid some of the worst effects. The difference between 1.5 and 2.0 degrees C of global average temperature rise is substantial. The former can no longer be avoided, but the latter is still possible if we act fast. Much has been done; much more is needed, and now. We care about the future for our children and grandchildren, but some of the unfortunate effects are with us today too.

Question: What are your ideas for mitigating greenhouse-gas emissions?