

A Message to District 42 Residents

As a Plymouth business owner, husband, and father of three daughters, I have spent my career making responsible financial decisions, creating jobs, and delivering results. Taxpayers from our area deserve a State Senator who represents them in St. Paul with the same discipline.

I am running for State Senate to bring accountability, transparency, and common-sense financial management back to government. This policy platform expands on the core priorities of my campaign—priorities designed to appeal to thoughtful Republicans, independent-minded Democrats, and everyone in between who simply wants government that works.

District 42 is a diverse, hardworking suburban community. Our families care about the cost of living, the quality of our schools, the integrity of our public programs, and an economy that creates opportunity without leaving anyone behind. These principles guide every position below.



Protecting Family Budgets

Minnesota families are feeling the pressure of higher costs for housing, groceries, childcare, energy, and healthcare. Government should be part of the solution—not the source of additional strain.

My approach prioritizes practical relief and fiscal discipline that benefits working households across the political spectrum.

Tax Policy Reset

Minnesota routinely runs multi-billion dollar budget surpluses while household costs of housing, child care, groceries, and health care keep climbing -- a sign that the state is collecting more than it needs and returning too little to the people who earned it. A "tax policy reset" means reviewing the state's tax code for provisions that are outdated, duplicative, or that fall hardest on working families and small employers, and prioritizing broad-based relief (income and property tax relief, indexing brackets to inflation, closing corporate carve-outs) over one-time rebate gimmicks. The goal is a simpler, more predictable code that lets families keep more of what they earn rather than routing it through government and back.

This is not about ideology. It is about treating taxpayer dollars with the same care a responsible household or business applies to its own budget. Voters across the political spectrum understand that sustainable government starts with living within our means.



Tackle Affordability with Practical Solutions

Affordability is not a partisan issue—it is a kitchen-table issue. I will support targeted, results-oriented measures that address the real drivers of cost-of-living pressure in suburban communities:

- Property tax growth that outpaces income growth for many homeowners and seniors on fixed incomes.
- Childcare and early education costs that force difficult choices for dual-income and single-parent households.
- Energy and transportation costs that hit commuting families particularly hard.
- Healthcare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses that continue to rise despite significant public investment.

Solutions should be targeted, common-sense fixes over sweeping mandates: reducing regulatory barriers that inflate housing construction costs, supporting child care licensing reform to expand supply, and reviewing state mandates that add cost without adding value. The emphasis should be on results families can feel in their monthly budgets, not slogans.

Eliminate Wasteful Spending and Unfunded Mandates

Every dollar spent poorly is a dollar that cannot go toward classrooms, roads, public safety, or tax relief. I will work to require stronger cost-benefit analysis before new state spending is approved and to limit unfunded mandates that shift costs onto cities, counties, and school districts—ultimately landing on local property taxpayers. Suburban communities in particular feel the squeeze when the state imposes requirements without providing the resources to meet them. Responsible government means matching responsibilities with the means to fulfill them.



Making Government Work for Minnesotans

Most Minnesotans—regardless of party—want a government that is competent, honest, and focused on core responsibilities. When public programs fail to deliver or when fraud drains resources intended for the vulnerable, trust erodes and everyone loses. Restoring that trust is a shared interest.

Cultural Reset – Refocus on the Basics and Protect Taxpayers

Government has a limited but essential set of core functions: protecting public safety, educating children, maintaining infrastructure, and providing a reliable safety net for those who truly need it. Over time, mission creep has expanded the scope of state activity while basic performance in these core areas has suffered. A cultural reset means asking, on every major initiative: Does this strengthen the basics? Does it protect taxpayers and the investment in their government? Does it deliver measurable value? This disciplined focus is neither left nor right—it is simply responsible stewardship.

Fraud Prevention and Prosecution

Minnesota has experienced well-documented failures in program integrity, particularly in human services and healthcare-related spending. Billions of dollars intended to help vulnerable Minnesotans have been lost to fraud, waste, and abuse. This is not a partisan talking point—it is a documented failure of oversight that harms the people the programs were designed to serve and erodes public confidence.



My approach prioritizes:

- Stronger real-time monitoring and data analytics to detect anomalies early.
- Adequate staffing and tools for investigators and prosecutors so that cases can be pursued to conviction.
- Clear consequences for those who exploit public programs, including recovery of funds wherever possible.
- Transparency for the public on the scale of the problem and the progress being made to solve it.

Protecting the integrity of public programs is the best way to sustain them for those who depend on them.

Social Program Integrity and Systems Modernization

Effective social programs require both compassion and competence. Integrity means ensuring benefits reach the people they are intended to help, that eligibility rules are applied consistently, and that outcomes—not just spending—are measured. At the same time, many of Minnesota's systems remain outdated, fragmented, and difficult for both clients and caseworkers to navigate. Strategic investment in modern, interoperable technology can reduce errors, speed legitimate claims, deter fraud, and free caseworkers to focus on people rather than paperwork. This is practical government reform that improves service while protecting public fiscal resources.



Creating a World-Class Economy

Minnesota's long-term prosperity depends on our ability to grow high-quality jobs, attract and retain talent, and compete in a rapidly changing global economy. Suburban communities like those in District 42 are engines of that economy—home to entrepreneurs, skilled workers, and families who want their children to have even greater opportunity. Achieving a world-class economy requires both fiscal discipline and strategic investment.

Rein in Government Spending and Invest in Growth

Unchecked growth in government spending crowds out private investment and raises the tax burden on the very employers and workers we need to thrive. I will advocate for spending discipline that prioritizes high-return investments—workforce development, core infrastructure, and targeted economic development tools—over low-impact expansion of bureaucracy. The goal is not austerity for its own sake; it is to free resources for the activities that actually expand opportunity and raise living standards for Minnesota families.

Balance Economic Growth with Environmental and Workforce Concerns

Minnesotans rightly value both a strong economy and a healthy environment. Our lakes, rivers, forests, and outdoor recreation opportunities are part of what makes living here special—and they are economic assets. Responsible policy seeks to grow jobs and investment while protecting the natural resources that sustain quality of life and tourism.

On the workforce side, employers across sectors report persistent shortages of skilled workers. Practical responses include:

- Expanding high-quality career and technical education and registered apprenticeship pathways.



- Aligning higher education and workforce programs more closely with actual employer demand.
- Supporting immigration policies that fill genuine labor gaps while protecting wage standards and community cohesion.

This balanced approach rejects the false choice between jobs and the environment, or between growth and fairness. Suburban voters understand that both matter.

Foster R&D and Innovation Investment

Minnesota has long punched above its weight in medical devices, manufacturing, agriculture, and technology. Maintaining that edge requires a climate that encourages research, commercialization, and entrepreneurship. I support public-private partnerships, targeted incentives that reward real innovation and job creation, and regulatory approaches that protect public health and safety without imposing unnecessary barriers on legitimate enterprise. Investing in the next generation of Minnesota innovation is one of the highest-return uses of public resources—and it creates the kinds of careers that allow young people to build lives here rather than leave.

A Commitment to Results

These priorities reflect a simple governing philosophy: treat taxpayer dollars with respect, demand competence and integrity from public institutions, and create the conditions for families and businesses to thrive. They are designed to earn support from moderate Republicans who want fiscal responsibility and from moderate Democrats who want government that actually works for people.

I will work with colleagues across the aisle whenever we can find common ground on practical solutions. District 42 deserves representation that puts results ahead of rigid ideology.

I ask for your support, your ideas, and your partnership as we work to strengthen our communities and restore confidence in state government.

Kevin Peterson



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Plymouth Business Owner • Husband and Father of Three Daughters
Education Advocate • Common-Sense Conservative • Disappointed Taxpayer

Learn more and get involved:
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