



Minnesota Catholic Conference CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Your resource for discovering where the candidates stand on the issues

2026 is a big election year in Minnesota. Every U.S. House seat is up for election, as is one U.S. Senate seat. At the state level, Minnesotans will also elect a new governor, and every seat in the state Legislature, in both the House and Senate, is on the ballot. Thus, this is a pivotal year for our state's future.

But before Minnesotans go to the polls on November 3, **the August 11 primary elections will decide which candidates will represent the respective political parties and appear on the November ballot.** In many cases, intra-party primary elections will determine who ends up serving in office, which makes having strong voter turnout in the primaries very important.

As they prepare to vote, faithful citizens must **form** their conscience with principles of Catholic social teaching to participate rightly in the public arena. They also must **inform** themselves about the issues and where the candidates stand. Voting is only one part of faithful citizenship, but an important one, as we continually work to **transform** our state.

As candidates from all parties hit the campaign trail for the primary elections (**August 11**) and general election (**November 3**), MCC staff has created this guide to help you get a better sense of where candidates stand on issues so that you can be informed as you vote. We encourage you to reach out and talk to candidates about these issues, and their positions can often be found on their website or on social media as well.

QUESTIONS FOR U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE CANDIDATES (U.S. CONGRESS)

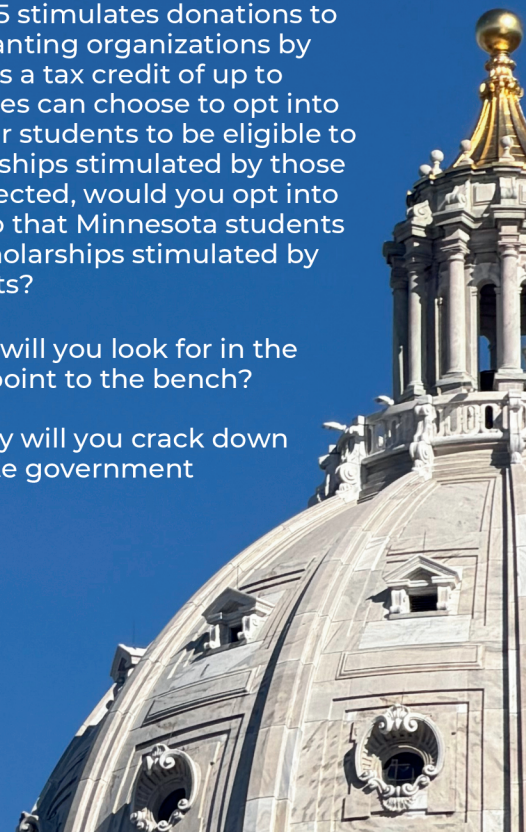
- What will you do to promote and support meaningful immigration reform?
- How will you work to limit the ability of the president to use the military and engage in warfare without congressional authorization?
- Will you oppose efforts to eliminate from law the federal scholarship tax credit that stimulates giving to scholarship-granting organizations?
- Do you support the reinstatement of the federal assault weapons ban that was allowed to expire in 2004?
- Will you work to ban gambling in the form of prediction markets such as Polymarket and Kalshi?
- How will you work to rein in federal spending and the further devaluing of the currency?
- Will you work to keep in place federal bans on taxpayer funding of abortion such as the Hyde Amendment?

QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

- A new federal scholarship program enacted in 2025 stimulates donations to scholarship-granting organizations by allowing donors a tax credit of up to \$1,700. But states can choose to opt into the program for students to be eligible to receive scholarships stimulated by those donations. If elected, would you opt into the program so that Minnesota students can receive scholarships stimulated by these tax credits?
- What qualities will you look for in the judges you appoint to the bench?
- How specifically will you crack down on fraud in state government programs?



For more information about election logistics, visit mncatholic.org/election2026.
To stay informed and involved, scan the QR code to join the Catholic Advocacy Network.





QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES (HOUSE AND SENATE)

Protecting the Right to Life

- Will you refuse to sign legislation that legalizes assisted suicide and endangers vulnerable people such as the elderly, chronically ill, those on public assistance or who have medical debt, and those with disability?
- What will you do to protect the right to life of the child in the womb from the moment of conception?
- Will you oppose mandated public and private insurance coverage of unethical fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization?
- What policies do you support to limit gun violence?

Protection of the Poor, the Vulnerable, and Creation

- Will you support a ban on commercial surrogacy arrangements that commodify women and children?
- Do you oppose the legalization of online sports gambling?
- What policies do you propose that promote greater inclusion for those with disability?
- What reforms or improvements would you make to the state's social safety net?
- What are your solutions for ensuring that people have access to home care or long-term care at the end of life? What do you propose to do about the workforce shortage in healthcare?
- How do you propose Minnesota best steward its natural resources, particularly water?

Supporting Education and Defending Religious Liberty

- Do you support expanding choice in education by allowing a student who opts out of a public school to take the approximately \$7,000 provided to each student by the state through the education funding formula and put it in an education savings account to use as that student's family sees fit, including for nonpublic school tuition?
- Will you oppose proposals that will attack free speech and religious liberty such as the misnamed Equal Rights Amendment?
- Will you oppose proposals to eliminate longstanding non-public school pupil student aid programs for essential services such as busing, nursing, counseling, testing, and textbooks?
- What do you propose for policies that protect students from mass shootings in schools?
- What ideas do you have to put ethical guard rails around the use of technology, including artificial intelligence?

Strengthening Families and Economic Security

- Do you support the Minnesota Starter Homes Act? If not, what policies do you support to put home ownership within the reach of more people?
- Do you support expansion of the state child tax credit so that it reaches deeper into the middle class? If not, what policies do you propose to help make Minnesota more affordable for families? What reforms or improvements would you make to the state's social safety net?
- Do you support tax incentives for closely held businesses to transfer ownership to cooperatives or employee-owned corporations?

**This guide is not exhaustive but intended to encourage reflection, further research, and informed discernment of issues and candidates through the lens of Catholic social teaching.*

