

2018-2019 Action Agenda Platform Resolutions

As passed at the 2018 DFL State Convention

Agriculture and Food

Pursue policies that result in more traditional farmers on the land raising both crops and livestock, and policies that support and encourage farmers to build soil, protect clean water, and prevent erosion

Support the University of Minnesota's Forever Green Program that puts stewardship and family farmers with new crops and technology first.

Support eliminating corporate farm subsidies and support sustainable farming by promoting local sourcing of food, education and incentives for urban agriculture and community farms.

Oppose cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and support promoting local farmers and their efforts within the confines of that program.

Business and Community Development

Support a full continuum of housing across the state to address homelessness, affordable rental opportunities, and home ownership within reach for all.

Civil, Constitutional and Human Rights

Support removal of the ratification deadline of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment and support the addition of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota State Constitution.

Support federal legislation allowing Dreamers, and others who qualify under the DACA program, to remain permanently in the United States with a track to citizenship for themselves and their families.

Support measures such as: early voting, automatic registration of voters, and restoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1964; and oppose requirements that prevent equal access to voting for any part of the voting population.

Support restoring voting rights to Minnesotans convicted of a felony when they are on probation or parole.

Support gender equality and racial justice, and put the needs and values of people ahead of the interests of powerful corporations.

Support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol.

Support pardoning those currently incarcerated for cannabis-related offenses and expunging the records of those convicted of cannabis-related offenses.

Support cities and counties throughout Minnesota adopting Sanctuary City policies to protect immigrant community members and urge the Governor and Legislature to declare Minnesota a Sanctuary State to protect immigrant community members statewide.

Support strong policies to help fund legal resources for immigrants threatened with deportation and enact strong policies to prevent the conscription of local resources to enforce federal immigration policy.

Support a comprehensive immigration reform offering a clear path to citizenship for the almost 12 million undocumented immigrants.

Prioritize and invest in resources to address sexual harassment in all settings, including prevention, training, reporting, responsiveness to complaints, and protection for bystander intervention.

Support legislation that makes it illegal to exclude transgender people in any way, including but not limited to health care, housing, employment, and use of restrooms.

Support a ban on conversion therapy, also known as sexual orientation/gender-identity change efforts, or reparative therapy, as a therapeutic practice.

Consumer Issues

Support restricting and regulating the sales and use of neonicotinoids in both urban and agricultural settings; mandate the labeling of treated plants and coated seeds; and adopt statutes that reduce or eliminate the use of systemic seed treatments.

Education

Support state and federal financial aid and grants, loans, tax credits, and other debt-relief options to make public higher education affordable and accessible for every Minnesota resident.

Support creating an equitable funding formula in Minnesota, so all public school students have the same opportunities to learn.

Support extended public education to cover expenses for graduating high school students to attend any two-year public college or vocational school in the state.

Support increased resources for vocational and technical training in high schools.

Support policies that help schools recruit and maintain teachers of color.

Support funding for universal, school-based, pre-k taught by licensed professional teachers in all Minnesota schools.

Oppose all vouchers for non-public school.

Support increased access for the most vulnerable children to attend high-quality early care and education programs by expanding Early Learning scholarships; continued to support of Parent Aware and eliminating the waitlist for the Child Care Assistance Program so all children from low-income families can access quality early learning programs starting at birth.

Support sexual health education offered by public schools that is medically accurate, age-appropriate and inclusive of LGBTQ concerns.

Support significantly increased state and federal funding for special education and ELL services in order to provide a high-quality public education for every child.

Support increasing the number of school support personnel in the areas of school counselors, nurses, social workers, chemical dependency staff, psychologists and psychiatrists.

Support creating incentives for teachers with the least training and academic qualifications to improve their practice for the benefit of their students, appropriating money for training and mentoring programs to move Tier 1 and Tier 2 licensed teachers up to Tier 4.

Energy

Support securing at least 50% of Minnesota's electricity from wind and solar by 2030, with a goal of eliminating coal by 2030 using 100% renewables by no later than 2050.

Support ensuring a racially and economically-just clean energy transition that creates high-paying jobs, encourages rural economic development, and provides everyone with access to the benefits of clean energy through programs and priorities to end energy poverty and allow community solar for all.

Support adoption of long-term tax credits for alternative energy systems.

Government Accountability to the Public

Support establishment of a nonpartisan independent redistricting commission, representative of Minnesota's diversity, partisan balance, and geography, for all future redistricting.

Support and advocate for any efforts to overturn the Citizens United decision. 82.7%

Support comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation including full disclosure of all contributions and expenditures to end the flood of special-interest monies to political campaigns.

Support informed participation in the democratic process through public financing for political campaigns and/or through small donor campaign contributions such as matching funds, tax credits and small donor vouchers.

Support legislations that candidates for federal and statewide office be required to disclose their tax returns from the last five years.

Health and Human Services

Support empowering Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.

Support legislation that enacts the Minnesota Health Plan at the state level while also supporting enactment of "Medicare for All" at the national level.

Support requirements that state regulated health plans cover all FDA-approved contraceptive medications and device categories, as well as no-cost patient education and counseling.

Support ensuring protection of and good care for our senior citizens, elders and vulnerable adults by supporting Governor Dayton's Elder Abuse Consumer Workgroup recommendations.

Support the ability of terminally ill adults to have access to a full range of end of life options.

Support full implementation and enforcement of mental-health parity laws to ensure individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders receive needed treatment.

Support the Quality Care Act to require minimum safe ratios of registered nurses to staff.

Oppose any changes to Medicaid that would reduce benefits, eligibility, or number or people enrolled.

Labor and Employment

Support a statewide \$15.00 minimum wage for all workers, with no tip penalty.

Support a paid family leave social insurance program that provides access to a minimum of 12 weeks of partial wage replacement for all workers for family leave and 12 weeks of medical leave covering a comprehensive set of critical life changing events.

Support the Wage Theft Prevention Act to establish a statutory definition of wage theft, making it a specific violation of the law and provide more authority for the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry to get wage records.

Support a statewide, earned sick and safe time law that guarantees all workers have access to sick and safe time benefits that are fully paid and enforced.

Oppose all “Right to Work” legislation, and any amendments to the Minnesota Constitution, which attempt to support “Right to Work”.

Oppose legislation or constitutional amendments which preempts or interferes with local governments' authority to establish minimum wages, benefits, working conditions, terms of employment, or attendance or leave policies - that exceed state or federal law.

Media and Internet Issues

Support strong Net Neutrality protections at the federal and state level that ensure all citizens have equal access to and use of the internet, with fees and connectivity guaranteed the same for all, regardless of their size or scale of usage.

Support the implementation and expansion of the Border-to-Border statewide Broadband initiative by providing stable multi-year funding; by eliminating corporate-monopoly sponsored restrictions, obstacles, and preemptions; by encouraging municipalities and rural co-operatives to install and own their own fiber-optic networks.

Support treating all internet access and services in Minnesota as public utilities and support granting the State Public Utilities Commission authority to oversee the installation, operation, and regulation of a robust, statewide fiber-optic broadband network.

Natural Resources and the Environment

Support funding and legislation to improve monitoring assessment, restoration, and protection of Minnesota waters.

Support the United States rejoining the Paris Climate Accord, and that Minnesota cooperate with other states towards the goals of the Paris Accord.

Oppose circumvention, weakening, or repeal of environmental laws, or administrative procedures, when this jeopardizes environmental regulations, due process, or public participation, and support strict enforcement of all such regulation and treaty rights and repeal the power of eminent domain for crude oil pipelines.

Support legislation that requires all crude oil pipelines transiting Minnesota to have Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), to have financial assurance for spill and abandonment cleanup, and respects the right of sovereign nations to determine what construction projects take place in their respective territories and require abandonment cleanup.

Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Commit to gun violence protection by supporting common sense prevention measures, including but not limited to: passing Universal Criminal Background Check and Gun Violence Protection Order bills; making state funds available for gun violence programs; and removing prohibitions in current state law against the collection of gun- related data for the purpose of public health research.

Support banning the sale of military style, semi-automatic weapons designed to use high-powered ammunition and high-capacity magazines.

Support requirements that that police training must spend at least equal time training in peaceful de-escalation tactics as in use of force tactics.

Support steps to reduce incarceration and its negative impacts through investment in alternatives to incarceration, sentencing reform, and supervised release policies.

Support the prohibition of for-profit incarceration facilities from operating or leasing facilities in the State of Minnesota.

Support the State of Minnesota allowing driver's licenses for undocumented residents.

Oppose "Stand your ground" or "shoot first" laws which allow the use of deadly force anytime a person subjectively believes his or her life is threatened – even if there is a clear and safe way to avoid the danger.

Support residents of other states, while in Minnesota, being governed by Minnesota's gun laws rather than the laws of their own states.

Retirement Security

Support legislation to scrap the social security payroll and tax cap to make it fair and progressive and to assure full benefits for all future social security recipients. The annual benefit adjustment should be based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to more accurately reflect expenses faced by the elderly.

Support a strong, secure retirement system for our public educators and employees to support the goal of maintaining a defined benefit pension plan for current and future generations.

Transportation

Support passing comprehensive, statewide, long-term transportation funding package without taking funds from education, health-care and economic development.

Support legislation and funding for adequate, coordinated, and affordable passenger transportation for seniors and disabled persons within cities, counties, and throughout the state.

Veterans Affairs

Support funding to meet veterans' needs, including health care, mental health care, housing, education, and employment services.