**Minnesota Legislative Questionnaire 2022**

AFSCME Council 65 represents over 14,000 public sector and private sector workers throughout Greater Minnesota and South Dakota. Our members are the people who make our communities run, supporting our local governments, schools, hospitals and more.

**Name: Phone Number:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Office Seeking:** **Incumbent Y/N:**

**Campaign Committee:**

**Campaign Contact:**

**Freedom to Organize Pledge (Required):**

I will oppose all legislation and efforts that: attempts to make Minnesota a “Right to Work” state or, attempts to weaken workers’ rights in Minnesota to effectively organize a union in their workplace. (Such as limits on dues deductions, union access to worksites, and access to employees contact information)

**Personal Background:**

**Please share your personal and professional background, and why you are running for this office?**

**What has been your past relationship with the labor movement?**

**If elected, how will you work to build a relationship with AFSCME 65 members in Minnesota?**

**Will you commit to meeting with our members or their representative when they request meetings in your district or in St. Paul? [  YES  NO ]**

**What other endorsements have you received for this election?**

**General Questions:**

**What is your long-term vision for Minnesota?**

 **What are your top three priorities for Minnesota?**

1.
2.

 **Why is AFSCME 65’s endorsement important to you?**

**AFSCME Council 65 primarily represents public sector workers and healthcare workers in Greater Minnesota. How will you work with legislators from both Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities area to build a strong Minnesota for all working families?**

**How would you work across the aisle with members of another party to make important progress for working families in Minnesota?**

**In your opinion, what is this election about and what will it take to win?**

**Policy Priorities:**

**Will you oppose any changes in statute that would weaken the Public Employee Labor Relations Act (PELRA) in Minnesota? [  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Anti-worker dark money organizations are bullying employers to give them workers private information to spread anti-union messaging. Would you support legislation to prevent employers from sharing contact information for workers with any organizations other than their union?**

**[  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**The Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) is an essential tool for unions and workers to hold bad public employers accountable for their actions. The legislature has never funded the board leaving workers no avenue to pursue justice for unfair labor practices. Will you support legislation to fully fund the PERB Board?
 [  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Will you oppose any attempt to change Minnesota’s Public Employees’ Pensions from a defined benefit plan?
[  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Will you support increases in state contributions to the pension funds to help counties provide this benefit which is essential to retention and recruitment of workers?**

**[  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Local Government Aid and County Program Aid are essential programs that help fund governments in both the Metro and Greater Minnesota. Will you support legislation that increases aid or automatically adjusts the formula for inflation? [  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**How would you work to provide full fair and sustainable funding for schools especially in Greater Minnesota?**

**AFSCME 65 represents school support staff across the state of Minnesota. These workers who are mostly women and members of minority communities, have been excluded from Minnesota’s Unemployment Insurance program making it difficult to stay in these essential jobs. Will you push to make hourly school workers eligible for UI? [  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Early/Absentee Voting & Same Day Voter Registration are essential for working families who cannot always vote during the workday or on election day. Will you fight to protect workers access to the polls?
[  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**AFSCME 65 represents public safety officers throughout Greater Minnesota, as we continue the conversations on essential reforms, how will you engage our public safety workers in your process?**

**How would you work to address staffing shortages in our rural long-term care and healthcare facilities?**

**Licensed Practical Nurses are essential to providing excellent bedside care in Greater Minnesota, will you support programs and legislation designed to increase training programs and access to the profession?**

**[  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Will you support legislation to create a universal Paid Family and Medical Leave social insurance program that provides at least 12 weeks of leave with partial wage replacements so all workers can afford to take time off to bond with a new child, or care for a loved one with a serious medical condition? [  YES  NO ] Comments:**

**Will you support increased funding for mental health services? [  YES  NO ]**

 **How else would you work to address the mental health and behavioral health crisis in MN?**

**What questions do you have for us regarding the work our members do for their communities?**

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

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