

VOTERS' GUIDE 2026

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 32 (ELECT 1)

Chris Ford (DFL)

City Residence: Blaine
Occupation: High school paraprofessional educator
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Blaine City Council Member
- Union President of my local International Association of Fire Fighters
- Fire Captain for 13 years in Rochester, Minnesota.



community and don't listen to the issues that matter. I know that I can be a fierce and passionate advocate for our community — a leader who is dedicated to the community I serve. I want to promote common-sense legislation that is focused on bringing down costs, increasing public safety and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?

A. Minnesota prospers when we invest in the basics: fully funding K-12 schools so every district can compete, expanding housing supply so working families can afford to stay here, and protecting clean water and infrastructure for the next generation. We need to lower costs — child care, healthcare, housing, groceries — while keeping taxes competitive for small businesses and workers alike. That means responsible budgeting, strong labor protections and public safety funding that supports communities and first responders. Growth isn't one big fix; it's steady, disciplined investment in people, paired with a government that works efficiently and honestly for every Minnesotan.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?

A. Cost of living and public safety staffing. Rising healthcare and childcare costs are squeezing families, and school districts are stretched thin — I'd fight for the state to fully fund our schools in a stable and ongoing way so districts don't have to turn to property tax levies that make it harder for families to get by, and for seniors to stay in their homes. Additionally, I'd work to lower health insurance costs through smarter state purchasing and insurance reform. On public safety, as a former firefighter/paramedic and union president, I've experienced the recruitment and retention crisis facing fire, EMS and police departments. I'd back state funding tied to competitive wages and mental health support, so communities aren't left waiting longer for help.

Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?

A. I want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature because my community deserves a leader who is dedicated to serving the working people who are just barely getting by. Life has become too unaffordable for so many Minnesotans. Healthcare costs are climbing, gas prices are out of control and young people can't afford to buy homes anymore. I know that I am feeling this squeeze too. Politicians have become disconnected from our

Michael Kreun (R)

City of residence: I have lived in Blaine for the last 24 years with my wife, Laura, where we have raised our three children
Occupation: Lawyer
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Minnesota State Senator, District 32 (2023-present)
- Spring Lake Park (ISD 16) School Board Member (2018-2022)
- Coon Creek Watershed Board of Managers (2017-2022)



I am continuing to lead efforts to reduce car tab fees and property taxes, eliminate the tax on Social Security, strengthen public safety and support excellent schools. I believe public service requires professionalism, civility, collaboration, and a relentless focus on solving problems and delivering for the people we represent.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?

A. Over the next five years, Minnesota can prosper by becoming a state where families can afford to live, businesses can grow and people have confidence in their government. We must respect taxpayers by exercising fiscal discipline, living within our means and lowering the burdens crushing the middle class. That means controlling spending, reducing income and sales taxes; property taxes and car tab fees; and focusing on core responsibilities like maintaining infrastructure, keeping communities safe and expecting excellence in our schools. We must be competitive by reducing regulations; speeding up permitting; and creating an environment where businesses can invest, expand and create good-paying jobs. We should make it easier to start a business and create opportunities for our children and grandchildren to build their futures here. Finally, we must restore trust by combating fraud, auditing programs that exceed their budgets and ensuring taxpayer dollars reach those who truly need them.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?

A. Minnesota's two biggest challenges are pervasive fraud in social services programs and the high cost of government. First, we must restore accountability and integrity to programs designed to help those in need. I was a leading author of legislation establishing an independent Office of Inspector General to combat fraud, ensuring it has the independence and law enforcement capabilities necessary to be effective. I also authored legislation requiring audits and legislative accountability when programs exceed their budgets, helping prevent unchecked growth and identify potential fraud. Second, the high cost of government is making life less affordable for Minnesotans. Government must exercise fiscal discipline, prioritize essential services over wants and respect taxpayers. I will continue fighting to lower car tab fees, cap property tax growth, and eliminate the tax on Social Security benefits — while ensuring government lives within its means.

Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?

A. Minnesotans expect their government to protect taxpayer dollars, prevent fraud and make life more affordable. That is not happening in Minnesota. I am running for reelection to address these challenges and deliver results. During my first term, I established a strong record of accomplishment and demonstrated a commitment to collaboration and bipartisanship. I am leading the effort in the Minnesota legislature to fight fraud. I authored legislation creating an independent Office of Inspector General to combat fraud, and I authored legislation protecting children from the harmful and addictive features of social media — legislation that passed the Senate unanimously and became law.

MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 36 (ELECT 1)

Heather Gustafson (DFL)

City of residence: Vadnais Heights
Occupation: Minnesota State Senator, District 36
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Chair, Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission
- Vice Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee
- Vice Chair, Senate State and Local Government Committee



I have represented Senate District 36 since 2023. Before running for office, I spent many years as a high school teacher, following an earlier career in radio broadcasting. I hold a degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and a Master of Education from the College of Saint Scholastica. I am the mother of four daughters. As a senator, I have focused on affordability, public safety and government accountability, building a strong record of bipartisan collaboration.

Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?

A. I spent many years as a high school teacher, and as the mother of four daughters, I saw the same pressures in my classroom as I did at my kitchen table. I see what happens when families fall behind on rent, when a school budget gets stretched too thin, or when a kid shows up hungry because breakfast wasn't an option at home. Those aren't abstract policy problems to me. I ran for office because I wanted to bring that problem-solving mindset to the legislature: listen first, find the people willing to work across the aisle, and get something done instead of just talking about it. That's how I passed the school meals program and created Minnesota's first independent watchdog for government fraud, with Republican co-authors. I want to keep doing that work so families can thrive, not just survive.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?

A. Minnesota prospers when people trust that resources are being used honestly and families can actually get ahead, not just get by. That starts with practical, bipartisan solutions to tackle the cost of living directly, from housing to child care to health care, so working families in our district aren't doing the math every time they're at the grocery store. Most people in our district, no matter their party, just want a legislature that solves problems instead of fighting culture wars. That's why I authored bipartisan legislation creating a Minnesota Entrepreneurship Task Force, to bring entrepreneurs,

workers, and educators together to strengthen what's working in our business climate and fix what isn't. I've built my record on working with Republicans and Democrats for exactly that kind of work, because the next four years shouldn't be about scoring points. They should be about proving state government can still deliver for people.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?

A. First, I've made government accountability a priority. I authored the legislation creating Minnesota's Office of Inspector General, an independent watchdog with authority to investigate fraud across state agencies, which passed with bipartisan support. I now chair the Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission, and I'll keep pushing to give that office everything it needs to catch bad actors before they drain public resources. Second, the cost of living has families in our district stretched thin. I've focused on meaningful relief: school meals, which save families real money every month, and consumer protections like click-to-cancel laws that stop companies from quietly draining people's wallets with recurring subscriptions. Going forward, I'll pursue an affordability agenda rooted in what families actually deal with day to day: groceries, child care, health care costs, and holding corporations accountable when they take advantage of people, so families here can actually get ahead.

Quick Links:

- View the elections home at mnvotes.gov
- Register to vote or update your registration at mnvotes.gov/register
- Request an absentee ballot at mnvotes.gov/absentee
- View a sample ballot at mnvotes.gov/myballot
- Find your polling place at mnvotes.gov/pollfinder



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MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 36 (ELECT 1)

Heidi Heino (R)

City of residence: Centerville

Occupation: Associate director of partnership development and small-business owner

List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Member, Minnesota Task Force on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs
- President, Fellowship of Extraordinary Women, Twin Cities Chapter
- Volunteer, Eagle Brook Church One-on-One Care Team for eight years



Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?
A. I have spent my career in the private sector, negotiating contracts and solving complex problems for my company and our clients. That experience shapes how I look at government. When I see a problem, I want to understand what is causing it and find a practical way to fix it.
Like many others, I have no pension. I have to plan, save, and take responsibility for my family’s future. Every additional dollar taken in taxes is money a family cannot use

for its needs today or save for tomorrow.
I am running because Minnesota government needs more people with private-sector experience who will ask hard questions, follow the money, and challenge the way things have always been done. Too often, government measures success by how much it spends instead of whether it solved the problem. I want to help restore accountability and make Minnesota a place where families can thrive.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?
A. Minnesota can prosper by making it easier for families and businesses to stay and grow here. First, state government must slow spending growth and review programs for results before increasing their budgets. Savings should be used to reduce taxes and avoid shifting state costs onto local property taxpayers.
Second, Minnesota should shorten permitting timelines, eliminate duplicative regulations, and give small businesses one place to navigate state requirements. The state should streamline permitting without dictating local housing decisions. Cities should have a say in how their communities grow.
Third, we must protect the foundations employers and families rely on: safe communities, dependable roads, access to health care, and schools that teach reading, writing, math, and critical thinking. Minnesota has talented people, strong

communities, and innovative businesses. The next five years should focus on removing barriers, protecting taxpayer dollars, and making it possible for people to build their future here.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A. The first challenge is fraud and the loss of public trust. Billions of taxpayer dollars have been placed at risk because state programs lacked adequate oversight. Once fraud is discovered, the money is often already gone. I would support stronger front-end verification, tiered oversight based on risk, better coordination among agencies, and meaningful consequences for those who misuse public funds. Fraud prevention must begin before the first payment is issued.
The second challenge is affordability. Families are being squeezed by property taxes, energy costs, housing expenses, and the rising cost of everyday necessities. If elected, I would work to restrain government spending, oppose unfunded mandates that increase local property taxes, reduce barriers to housing development, and lower the tax and regulatory burden so Minnesota can retain businesses and workers. Government cannot eliminate every financial pressure, but it should stop making those pressures worse.

MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 32B (ELECT 1)

Matt Norris (DFL)

City of residence: Blaine

Occupation: Attorney

List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Member of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (governing body of the National Sports Center)
- Member of the Blaine Festival Committee
- Volunteer attorney with the Children’s Law Center



Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?
A. My campaign is about “building bridges and getting results” because I think voters want leaders who can bring together people from different backgrounds to get things done. I have been able to deliver significant results: securing \$103 million for the Highway 65 redesign, authoring increased funding for our schools and law enforcement, and leading on two landmark anti-fraud bills. And I did it while having the majority of my

bills supported by both Democrats and Republicans. While I’m proud of the results I’ve delivered, there’s still more work to do to make Minnesota the best possible state, which is why I’m running for reelection. I’m committed to listening to you, the voters of Blaine and Lexington, to respond to the issues most important to you.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?
A. First, Minnesota must deliver on its quality-of-life promise: good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean lakes and rivers, and more. These are the factors that attract people to our state and keep them here. Second, we should use our existing strengths to supercharge economic growth. Examples include investing in the next generation of medical device technology and leading on the development of sustainable aviation fuel. Third, we should create a strong environment for startup businesses so we can develop the next round of great Minnesota companies that will help our state prosper well into the future.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A. First, we need to make life more affordable for Minnesotans. I’m especially focused on “the three cares”: child care, health care and senior care. All three are such big budget items for families. If we can bring down the cost of these expenses, it leaves more room for gas, groceries and more. I’m also focused on lowering property taxes. Home property taxes have gotten out of control, and I’ve got a specific plan to reduce them. Second, we need to make sure state government is accountable and produces real results. The fraud we have seen against Minnesota’s public programs is unacceptable. I will build on the anti-fraud bills I’ve passed to conduct a top-to-bottom audit of state government. I will also author a bill requiring the state to measure the results of any new spending to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.

Leslie Larson (R)

City of residence: Blaine

Occupation: Small business owner, substitute teacher and Blaine City Councilwoman

List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Blaine City Councilwoman
- Former foster care provider and adoptive mother
- Mary Ann Young Center board member



Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?
A. I will bring a mom’s common sense, a businesswoman’s accountability and a councilwoman’s experience to the legislature. I’m ready to serve with integrity and fight for safe communities, strong schools, economic opportunity and a government that earns your trust.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?
A. Minnesota’s lawmakers need to take fraud seriously and hold accountable those who steal from Minnesota taxpayers. Our tax dollars continue to pour into programs with minimal guardrails, creating opportunities for misuse and draining our economy. Our programs must have stronger oversight and tighter guardrails. It is also very important that we reverse the exodus of businesses and educated young people in Minnesota. Lowering taxes, reducing regulations and making Minnesota more competitive in the workplace will be necessary in the next five years.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A. Minnesota’s education system needs serious improvement. The Department of Education is fully funded, yet too little of that investment is reaching the classroom level. As a substitute teacher, I witness the overuse of technology and funding shortcuts in our schools that comes at the expense of quality education. With insight

into the classroom as well as being a mother of five school-aged children, I have a necessary perspective to assist in education policy.
Another challenge is affordability. Minnesota is one of the highest taxed states in the nation. As a city councilwoman, I voted against raising taxes in Blaine the last two years in a row. Financial pressure on families and small business must be addressed at the state level. I will continue to focus on responsible spending and tax policies that help families keep their hard-earned money.

How to vote early

By mail
To vote by mail, apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply.
For your ballot to count, remember this important information:
• Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully.

• You will need a witness when you vote and complete your ballot. The witness can be either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary.
• Return the ballot and forms right away after you finish. Your ballot will not count if it is received after Election Day.

In person
All voters have at least one location where they can vote early in person with an absentee ballot. Depending on where you live, there may be additional locations.
• You can vote in person at your county election office.
• In addition, you may be able to vote at your city office. Contact the clerk for more information.

For most elections, absentee voting locations must be open during their normal business hours starting 46 days before the election. In addition, locations offering absentee ballots for federal, state or county elections must be open:
• The last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m. — 3 p.m.)

• The day before Election Day until 5 p.m.
• Some local jurisdictions may provide additional absentee voting days or hours beyond the above required days and times. Call your jurisdiction for more information.

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MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 36A (ELECT 1)

Jim DeMay (DFL)
City of residence: North Oaks
Occupation: Recently retired, former Public Affairs Director — CSL Seqirus, former adjunct professor at Hamline University in Public Administration
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Mounds View School Board, Treasurer, 2019-present
- Shoreview Rotary Club
- St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, past Board Chair

Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?
A. I believe the government needs to provide the right opportunities to keep Minnesota a great place to live, work and, most importantly, raise a family. I am running for state house to make that a reality for all Minnesotans.

When I grew up, it was possible for the kid of a waitress and a small businessman to enjoy the middle class dream, but those opportunities just aren't there for people in the same way. I was able to succeed because of a great public education at Mounds View Schools, and I'm proud that my wife and I are now parents to two MVHS graduates.

I will fight to fully fund public education around the state, and you can count on me to fight for affordable health care and child care for working people like you.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?
A. Minnesota needs to invest in and create opportunities for workers in order for our economy to thrive. This includes creating career pathways for the trades and medical industry in high school. Additionally, community college and trade schools must be accessible to all at a low cost. Finally, we need to lower the cost of and make child care more accessible so parents can participate in the workforce while knowing their kids are safe.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A. Going to the doctor shouldn't break the bank. But for too many Minnesotans, skyrocketing costs are making them choose between health care and other essential expenses. If elected, I will push to fund tax credits to reduce premiums for Minnesotans and eliminate anti-competitive practices of PhRMA to lower the price of prescription drugs. I will also work to create pathways for "Medicare for All" for those without insurance through their employers, as well as promote preventive services and regular vaccinations and check-ups to reduce overall costs.

Separately, I will support fully funding the newly created Minnesota Office of Inspector General that creates an independent oversight body to stop waste, fraud and abuse. I will work to protect taxpayer dollars by promoting efficiency reviews and regular audits. I will also work to modernize state computer systems to catch fraud, promote efficiency and increase accountability measures for nonprofits.

Sebastian Stoss (R)
City of residence: Circle Pines
Occupation: Photographer/Videographer
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- Legislative aide at Minnesota Senate
- Citizen investigator
- Congressional staff member

Q. Why do you want to serve in the Minnesota Legislature?
A. I want to serve as our next state representative because politics as usual has failed our state. We have seen unprecedented levels of fraud, affordability has gotten worse and Minnesota student grades keep falling. I have demonstrated action. Just look at my investigation into Ramsey County's property tax spending uncovering how over \$38 million went out the back door to unaudited outside nonprofits and NGOs. I didn't sit on the sidelines; I followed the money, demanded answers and got results. The county commissioners backed off and lowered this year's property tax increase by 15%.

That's what I've done as a private citizen — now I would like to continue this work as state representative.

Q. What can the state do in the next five years to help Minnesota prosper?
A. At the state level, we can eliminate fraud, impose more oversight and provide tax relief. We need mandatory background checks and more required financial audits to both stop fraud that has already occurred and prevent further fraud from happening. Additionally, I support expanding whistleblower rewards to 10–20% of recovered funds with protections from retaliation. These are just a handful of initial solutions that can help prevent fraud. With the money we save once this is done, we can afford to provide tax relief to all Minnesotans. Specifically, we will be able to afford to lower the currently out-of-control property taxes, income taxes and car tab fees.

Q. What are two challenges that the state faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A. The biggest challenge facing Minnesota currently is fraud. Fraud in Minnesota has become a national

embarrassment. Fraudsters have been able to steal from Minnesotans for years without any pushback from our government. This should anger every Minnesota taxpayer. To stop fraud, we need to increase oversight and transparency. For instance, counties are not currently legally required to audit organizations they give money to. This makes it easy for bad actors to get funding and misspend it. The second challenge facing Minnesota is how unaffordable living has become, especially due to out-of-control taxes. Property taxes in particular burden homeowners and prospective homeowners. People tell me they are getting priced out of their own homes and neighborhoods. To lower the tax burden and make Minnesota more affordable, we need private third-party assessors determining property valuations to ensure fairness, and we need to cap annual property taxes raises.

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF (ELECT 1)

CANDIDATE BRAD WISE DID NOT RESPOND

ANOKA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (ELECT 1)

Jeff Reinert
City of residence: Lino Lakes for over 50 years. I'm married to my wife, Lisa, for 37 years. We raised three daughters and have three grandbabies. I'm a business owner, currently an advisor in the biotech space and am Commander of Post 566 American Legion SAL in Lino Lakes.
Occupation: County commissioner
List three most recent civic involvement roles:

- I've served our area for 20-plus years in public office, including as mayor of Lino Lakes.
- Lead Centerville Lake treatment efforts, finding outside funding for \$980,000 of the \$1.1 million cost.
- Lead the effort to purchase and install fencing around the Lino Lakes juvenile detention center, protecting nearby neighborhoods from runaways.

Q. Why do you want to serve on the County Board?
A. Running for commissioner of the fourth largest county is like applying for a job, and experience matters. I have the background needed to make sound decisions for taxpayers and residents and I know how to get things done

If you don't have experience, you can't ask the right questions. If

you can't ask the right questions, you won't make good decisions and won't serve the public well — in fact, you may do it harm. Good oversight and measurement lead to good management. While this common-sense approach is often missing in government, it is essential for operating efficiently and responsibly. As a business owner and your elected representative for more than 20 years, I have developed these skills and used them to improve how Anoka County operates.

I'm running for reelection because I love this community and want to continue making a positive difference for the people I serve.

Q. What can the county do in the next five years to help the area prosper?
A. The overall goal should be to grow the county's tax base and household incomes while keeping Anoka County an affordable, safe and desirable place to live.

We do this by supporting the cities and townships in our county. Although zoning property to attract residential and/or commercial development is in the hands of each city, the county plays a role in assisting cities to help navigate what is needed for development. As an example, our area has many hydrology and wetland issues as it relates to development, so helping cities work with the Anoka County Conservation District, the DNR and the Rice Creek Watershed District is a big asset. I often meet with economic development directors from various cities in my district to bring the right parties together

at the table to discuss issues and get things done.

Q. What are two challenges that the county faces and how might you solve them if elected?
A.

- New Jail: Challenges come from some people in the county wanting to build an oversized and overpriced jail. Even a study done by the State of Minnesota concluded we need only 70% of what the county wants to build. If we downsize the plan, litigation can be settled, we can build a jail the right size and save Anoka County taxpayers not only the cost of the overbuild, but also the ongoing cost of running an oversized jail.
- FLOCK Drones: FLOCK cameras currently read license plates and are developing facial recognition capabilities. The company proposed a drone network covering Anoka County. Most county board members opposed the proposal, yet the sheriff signed a one-year contract set to begin in January. I believe a decision of this magnitude deserves public input and board oversight, and I will bring it back for discussion and transparency.