

Education Minnesota Voter Information: House District 33B

Dear educator,

Those elected this November will make decisions that directly impact your students, pocketbook, profession and union. Because of this, we wanted to provide some information on where the candidates for Minnesota House in your district stand on the issues educators have said they care about the most.

A candidate's position is sometimes more complicated than a "yes" or "no" answer. We have done our best to represent each candidate in a fair and reasonable way. Unless noted otherwise, the statements were taken from Education Minnesota's candidate questionnaire.

For educators seeking more specific information on their local candidate's positions on Education Minnesota's top priorities of pay, pensions and health care, the questionnaires are available at www.edmnvotes.org.

Will you support unions as a state legislator?	
Josiah Hill "Continuing to build on my voting track record both in the committee structure (I serve on the Ed. Policy (Vice-Chair), Ed. Finance, and Labor and Industry committees) and will continue to support workers."	Jessica L. Johnson Said: "The (teacher's) union has endless amounts of money, everyone knows that, but they don't have a place at (a school board's) table." ¹ <small>¹ NARN Radio, 10/29/22</small>
Do you believe in fully and equitably funding public education, from preschool to postsecondary institutions?	
Josiah Hill Yes. Hill said: "Minnesota's public education system has been a foundational game-changer for our state, and this investment in our future must remain a central focus of the work taking place at the Capitol in St. Paul."	Jessica L. Johnson While running for the Stillwater school board in 2023, she opposed a referendum that would have helped build new school infrastructure for a rapidly growing school district. ² <small>² Stillwater Gazette, 11/3/23</small>
What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality, full-time educators in our classrooms?	
Josiah Hill "Pay them the wage they deserve and work to improve their pensions. Also, we need to expand the program we passed last year to provide a stipend to student teachers and bring additional resources (funding and voices) to recruiting teachers of color."	Jessica L. Johnson A careful review of Johnson's campaign website, social media, and public statements has revealed no clear plan to recruit and retain educators.
What is your personal experience with public schools in Minnesota?	
Josiah Hill "I have been a High School English teacher for 25 years—for the last 20 at my alma mater, Stillwater Area High School. For 12 years (from 2010-2022) I've served six, two-year terms as the president of our local union (St. Croix Education Association—600 members Strong)."	Jessica L. Johnson Said she was "blessed with the opportunity" to pull her children out of public schools. ³ <small>³ NARN Radio, 9/16/23</small>