

Education Minnesota Voter Information: House District 55A

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.

<p>Do you support private school voucher programs?</p>	
<p>Jessica Hanson "No. As a single mom, I understand how essential public schools are to our families and futures."</p>	<p>Gabriela Kroetch Kroetch advocates for private schools and using taxpayer-funded vouchers to pay for them to make "schools more competitive."¹ <small>¹ Alphanews, 9/17/22</small></p>
<p>What have you done to become informed on issues relating to public education? What organizations and individuals do you go to for your information?</p>	
<p>Jessica Hanson "I follow the lead of local teachers, parents, and our school board."</p>	<p>Gabriela Kroetch Kroetch shared an Alpha News commentary full of misleading statements written by school privatization advocate Sheila Qualls.² <small>² X screenshot & Alpha News article</small></p>
<p>Many experts believe providing sufficient resources to public schools is a prerequisite for student success. How would you ensure students and educators receive the support they need to learn and teach most effectively?</p>	
<p>Jessica Hanson "It is time for us to fund public education fully. By taking a statewide approach to innovative education funding formulas, we must reduce the unsustainable burden of local tax levies that fall on the shoulders of property owners."</p>	<p>Gabriela Kroetch Kroetch attempted to make a case against further funding for public education in a 2022 podcast: "Minnesota kids have scored lower in math and reading than children in Mississippi, despite the huge difference in the budgets. Minnesota spends around \$20 billion on education, and Mississippi spends \$3 billion. There's a huge difference between how education is approached and obviously pouring more money into education is not delivering the right results."³ <small>³ Deliberately Intentional Greatness podcast, 8/23/22</small></p>
<p>Most educators believe students should have access to a wide range of age-appropriate books that include relatable characters and situations that reflect the diversity of Minnesota families. However, certain politicians and big money groups are trying to remove books from school libraries across America, particularly books with LGBTQ+ characters or those that deal with racism in America. How should Minnesota protect its students' freedom to read?</p>	
<p>Jessica Hanson "School books and resources must reflect the diversity of our communities. As a legislator, I would safeguard students' freedom to read by supporting our current legislation against book bans and any future legislation that improves the range of books within our school libraries and classrooms."</p>	<p>Gabriela Kroetch In response to an interviewer commenting on children being taught political correctness in schools, Kroetch said, "Yes, absolutely, 100%—the focus has been on everything else but the academics the last few years." [Episode #39 – Deliberately Intentional Greatness - With Guest Gabriela Kroetch, 8/23/22]</p>