

# Education Minnesota Voter Information: House District 57B

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](http://www.edmnvotes.org).

<b>How will you improve student's well-being inside school?</b>	
<p><b>Brian Cohn</b> Promises to reverse Minnesota's underfunding of schools, including increasing mental health services. Supports teaching students to recognize and control their emotions through social-emotional learning. Will be an advocate to expand full-service schools across Minnesota to provide more accessible health, academic and public resources to students and families.</p>	<p><b>Jeff Witte</b> Voted "no" on a bill to invest over \$215 million in school meals so no Minnesota student goes hungry in school!<sup>1</sup></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><sup>1</sup> <i>Vote Smart HF 5</i></p>
<b>What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality educators in our classrooms?</b>	
<p><b>Brian Cohn</b> Says Minnesota can encourage more people to go into education careers by lowering the cost of teacher education and reducing or forgiving education debt. "In addition, we should continue to look for ways to help people with degrees other than teaching move into the field. While doing this, we need to maintain high standards for our teachers and comprehensive licensure requirements," he wrote. Cohn also supports a minimal salary of \$60,000 for all teachers and \$80,000 for teachers with 10 years of experience and a master's degree.</p>	<p><b>Jeff Witte</b> A review of the candidate's campaign website, social media, and public statements found no evidence of Rep. Witte advocating for higher compensation for current educators. However, he voted to lower licensure requirements for substitute teachers.<sup>2</sup></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><sup>2</sup> <i>house.mn.gov/sessiondaily/Story/17059</i></p>
<b>Do you believe in fully and equitably funding public education, from preschool to postsecondary institutions, with several billion dollars in new education investments?</b>	
<p><b>Brian Cohn</b> Promises to increase per-student funding. Favors increasing funding for special education and English Language Learner programs so all students can succeed. Pledges to reverse underfunding to create the best possible learning environment for students and staff. Supports improving educators' pay, pensions, and health care.</p>	<p><b>Jeff Witte</b> Voted against increasing funding for Minnesota schools. Opposed free school meals for breakfast, increasing per-student funding, and special education funding.<sup>3</sup></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><sup>3</sup> <i>Vote Smart HF 2497, HF 5237</i></p>