

# Education Minnesota Voter Information: House District 7B

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).

<p><b>How will you support unions and address issues in collectively bargained contracts?</b></p>	
<p><b>Lorrie Janatopoulous</b> Believes "unions are core to the success of my district." Will oppose any anti-union legislation. Will continue to stand by educators and is committed to expanding worker's rights to unionize and bargain.</p>	<p><b>Cal Warwas</b> Does not support teacher's unions and believes that teacher's unions are "nuts, evil, or both."  <small><sup>1</sup> Cal Warwas Facebook post 8/13/21</small></p>
<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>	
<p><b>Lorrie Janatopoulous</b> Will work to reverse Minnesota's perpetual underfunding of education. Promises to support total funding of special education and English Language Learner programs. Committed to providing additional resources, including counselors, social workers, and support staff. Promises to support all students no matter who they are.</p>	<p><b>Cal Warwas</b> Has demonstrated little recent interest in supporting public education and, in 2016, shared an anti-education article that began with the statement: "I hate the public school system."<sup>2</sup> Spoke against a local school referendum to improve school facilities and education in 2019.<sup>3</sup>  <small><sup>2</sup> Cal Warwas Facebook post 1/13/2016; Blaze Media Article 1/12/16 <sup>3</sup> Cal Warwas Facebook post 5/11/19</small></p>
<p><b>How would you support Minnesota's higher education system?</b></p>	
<p><b>Lorrie Janatopoulous</b> Sees the financial burden of tuition and will work to reduce costs. Supports keeping institutions funded and current for student success. Stands with students to make higher education more accessible, housing affordable, and increase employment opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Cal Warwas</b> Commented, "I couldn't agree more" when sharing an article that said, 'college is often an utter waste of time,' and agreed the only solution to costly tuition is to tell students not to attend college.<sup>4</sup> Views attending college as "ill-spent." Does not support increasing investment in higher education.<sup>5</sup> Is against student debt relief for recent college graduates.<sup>6</sup>  <small><sup>4</sup> Cal Warwas Facebook post 1/13/2016; Blaze Media Article 1/12/16 <sup>5</sup> Mesabi Tribune article 1/26/21 <sup>6</sup> Cal Warwas Facebook post 2/25/20</small></p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p><b>Lorrie Janatopoulous</b> "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><b>Cal Warwas</b> Warwas opposed a curriculum that teaches real American history. Instead, he said on social media, "Holy crap! Minnesota, this is the woke trash you voted for! They will erase history and turn your kids against their ancestors. Read it!"<sup>7</sup>  <small><sup>7</sup> Warwas FB post, 3/26/21</small></p>