

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

Page

Candidate endorsement questionnaire - Woodbury office

Candidate name

Lucia Wroblewski

Election district

41A

Party endorsement

DFL

Email

luciaforhouse@gmail.com

Phone

651-436-3982

Educator Pay

1. ESP living wage: Will you support legislation to ensure that all education support professionals earn a living wage of at least \$25 an hour?

Yes

2. Due to significantly below-market compensation for teachers, most school districts in Minnesota are having difficulty filling teaching jobs, and state colleges report a continued decline in the number of graduates from teacher preparation programs. Would you support creating a minimum salary for all licensed Minnesota teachers of \$60,000 a year and an \$80,000 minimum salary for licensed teachers with 10 years of experience and a master's degree?

Yes

Pensions

3. Will you support increasing state funding to ensure the financial sustainability of public pension funds?

Yes

4. Will you support exploring the necessary benefit improvements in order to provide educators with a secure retirement, including reducing early retirement penalties, lowering the normal age of retirement and a career threshold that will help recruit and retain educators?

Yes

5. How will you support efforts to lower inequitable penalties in the Teachers Retirement Association in order to expand retirement options?

There's no question the penalties for retiring before age 62 are inequitable. A friend's father was a HS math teacher with health problems, but really couldn't afford to retire until he was 62 and he struggled to complete the last two years to qualify for that

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

retirement benefit. Legislation is needed to correct that and I'll support it.

Health care

6. Do you support educators having access to a mandatory statewide health insurance pool, just like other state workers?

Yes

7. Do you support the current language that allows educator locals to unilaterally seek a bid and join the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) as the insurance provider for local bargaining units?

Yes

8. All Minnesotans deserve access to affordable health care and publicly managed plans like MN Care and Medicare are some of the most efficient plans out there. The legislature is currently seeking a federal waiver to expand MN Care to more residents. Do you support expanding all public health care programs to include more working people?

Yes

Education funding

9a. Reverse Minnesota's perpetual underfunding of education by significantly increasing the per-pupil funding formula.

Yes

9b. SPED cross subsidy: The state must fully fund special education costs instead of relying on school districts to pay for them.

Yes

9c. EL cross subsidy: Fully fund the costs districts pay to provide quality English learner programs and instruction.

Yes

9d. Lower class sizes: Lower class sizes so teachers can give students more of the individual attention they need and deserve.

Yes

9e. Full-service community schools: Expand access to full-service community schools across the state.

Yes

9f. Teachers of color: Fund programs to increase the number of teachers of color significantly so teachers providing instruction better reflect the students in our classrooms.

Yes

9g. Student support: Continue providing additional resources for school districts to hire more student support staff, including counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses and other job classifications.

Yes

9h. TDE/Q Comp: Fully fund the 2011 Teacher Development and Evaluation law, an unfunded state mandate, to ensure teacher quality and lift the cap on the Q Comp program.

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

Yes

9i. Professional development: Provide professional development to all staff around cultural competency and trauma-responsive classrooms with aims of closing the discipline disparity gap.

Yes

9j. Education debt relief: Provide debt relief to retain teachers so they can afford to stay in the classroom.

Yes

Taxes/revenue

10. Would you commit to raising revenue to ensure the wealthiest corporations and richest households pay what they truly owe in taxes so every student, no matter what they look like or where they live, can attend a fully funded public school that prepares them to pursue their dreams?

Yes

11. Education Minnesota believes in restoring fairness to the state tax code by raising revenue from the very wealthiest corporations and richest households and reducing the reliance on local levies to fund schools. Considering your own experience and expertise, are there other progressive, equitable ways to raise state revenue that you would recommend the union consider supporting?

Yes

12. Fully funded schools require adequate and stable revenues. Will you oppose tax cuts and carve outs that lower tax collections or narrow the tax base?

Yes

13. A balanced tax code draws revenue from a mix of income, sales, and property taxes. Will you support policies that maintain both adequate funding and a sustainable balance between revenue sources?

Yes

Higher education

14. Do you support increasing the state's direct investment in public higher education to significantly reduce institutions' reliance on tuition?

Yes

15. Will you support investments in capital bonding projects that preserve buildings, remodel classrooms and keep our technology assets current?

Yes

16. Do you support DEI efforts on our college campuses and universities?

Yes

17. What would you do, as a state legislator, to help with the cost of higher education?

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

Higher ed at public colleges and universities for our state residents should be much cheaper and affordable. I would support legislation that would substantially lower the cost of tuition at our state colleges and universities. I'm not in the legislature yet and I would seek out those legislators that have been working toward this goal likely for years for figuring out how to make it happen. But for me it's not a matter of if we can afford to do this as a state, but a situation where we must figure it out because we can't afford not to.

18. The North Star Promise is expected to result in an increase in enrollment on our campuses. Many of these students are projected to be disproportionately first-generation students and students from historically underserved communities. As a legislator, what would you do to ensure these students had the support they needed to be successful?

Many of these new students need more support than just the cost of their education. Many are young single parents who need help meeting basic needs while they attend school rather than working full time. Some will need counseling to adapt to the much different world they will find on college campuses compared to the communities they left behind. Other needs will emerge and we will need to be able to pivot quickly to help.

19. There are efforts to expand the North Star Promise to Minnesota's private colleges and universities. This would dramatically increase the amount of public money going to private institutions. Do you support the expansion of the North Star Promise to include private colleges and universities?

No

High-quality professional educators

20. What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality educators in our classrooms?

You get high quality educators by paying them what they deserve and by providing a great benefit package. Those are the keys to getting good folks into teaching and other public service careers as opposed to going into the private business world where folks can make more money. I'm not sure how to do this but we need to bolster the public perception of the importance of our teachers and remind the public how invaluable teachers are to our local communities, state and country. They mold our future by helping our young ones become intelligent, productive, disciplined, critical thinkers - and teachers deserve the respect they had for way too brief a moment when the kids had to stay home during the pandemic and when our public suddenly realized how important and challenging teaching is. How quickly all that faded.

Standardized testing

21. What individual or system-level decisions in education do you believe are appropriate to make based on standardized test scores?

I question whether standardized tests are as useful as they are often thought to be in measuring student learning, and I believe more attention should be paid to inequities built into these tests, as well as the burdens placed on students and teachers.

Honesty in Education

22. 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?

Thanks to the 2024 MN legislature, it is now illegal to ban books from public schools and public libraries. That is a great win for democracy and freedom of thought. I can't believe I have to state this in 2024 but I am opposed to any book bans.

23. Education Minnesota believes all students should have the freedom to feel safe and welcome in their public school, no matter what they look like, where they're from, how they pray, transgender or not. Do you agree?

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

Yes

24. Students bring many needs into their public schools, but our union believes they all deserve the freedom to grow with the help of support for their mental health and with lessons in how to recognize and control their emotions, which is sometimes called social-emotional learning. Do you support increasing support for students' mental and emotional health in public schools?

Yes

Time to Teach

MoveDuplicate Settings Delete 25. The planning and differentiating that teachers do daily needs more time. Most after school "prep" is filled with meetings. The current statute falls short of the time needed for preparing lessons. Will you support adjusting this statute to increase prep time?

Yes

26. Will you support legislation that protects an educator's prep time so it can't be used for meetings or having to sub for colleagues?

Yes

27. Do you support paid, dedicated time outside of student contact time for special education teachers to complete their paperwork and attend required meetings?

Yes

School safety

28. Creating incentives for school administrators to enforce districts' codes of conduct without bias and/or creating accountability measures for those who don't?

Yes

29. Increase reporting and transparency in worksite safety when reporting physical injuries and emotional trauma in the workplace?

Yes

Union Rights

30. The ability of workers to come together in union and bargain collectively has been vital for reducing wage gaps by gender, building the middle class, and limiting wealth inequality in Minnesota. Do you support expanding and strengthening workers' rights to join a union and bargain collectively?

Yes

31. Will you oppose any legislation or constitutional amendments that would weaken collective bargaining rights, the right to organize, the right to strike, automatic payment of union dues, union access and activities at worksites or other anti-union policies backed by anti-worker groups?

Yes

32. How will you support unions as a state legislator?

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

I was a proud member of my "union" (federation) as a St Paul Police Officer. I am proud of having served as a union steward. I understand the importance of unions both in the public and private sectors, and I will fight for the rights of union workers and those who wish to organize unions.

Privatization

33. Do you oppose state tax credits for private K-12 education tuition and expenses?

Yes

34. Will you support policy changes that will ensure a stronger accountability system with necessary oversight and reporting to ensure quality management and instructional practices in charter schools?

Yes

35. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until such changes are made?

Yes

Your role as a legislator

Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year? If so, which one? What were your observations from your visit? How will that experience inform your work as a legislator? If not, when did you last visit a school? Would you like us to help arrange a visit?

I've been inside school buildings in our district this past year but I can't say I've attended classes in session or met with teachers or administrators. The year has been a whirlwind for me with my involvement in politics and with all the work I've had to do as a first timer since making the decision to do this. I have visited Woodbury HS which is just outside my district this past year - as I have all the schools my nephew Vincent has attended for a number of years and I'm so impressed by the quality education he is receiving there. The rigor of his academics, the choices and opportunities for him with his academics, orchestra, theater, language courses, and the clear message that all students are valued and welcome is so impressive. I am aware that some schools in our district are over crowded with population increases in the area.

I would love to visit our district schools and appreciate the invitation. As you are aware we are hitting the crazy season in politics and I've been out door knocking for the past two months and it's only going to get more intense with that and everything else but certainly I'd do everything I can to schedule something. I want to learn all I can.

What have you done to become informed on issues relating to public education? What organizations and individuals do you go to for your information?

I have a number of close friends who went into teaching and I have always respected the profession. I had an absolutely incredible HS public education experience at St Paul Johnson HS. Teachers were and are my heroes. My friends are all recently retired but I still talk to them about issues as they come up. Our District Senator Judy Seeberger is also a resource for me - she is a teacher. I would definitely ask legislators who do the job like Senator Josiah Hill for their opinions and expertise. I guess what I'm really saying is that I would go to teachers and their organizations to get information on public education issues. They are the experts and they are the ones doing the work. It's a no brainer. My door would always be open to teachers and teacher organizations.

How do you envision working with Education Minnesota if you are elected/re-elected? If you disagree with us on an issue, how will you communicate that?

My door would always be open to Ed MN. I look forward to regular communications with Ed MN and I expect we would agree on most things. But nobody agrees with everything. I'm a pretty direct person and I'm always comfortable sitting down face to face to discuss things. I want to listen and learn and I also want to explain when I disagree with someone on something. As a cop I've

**2024 Candidate endorsement questionnaire : Entry #
1456**

often faced conflict and disagreements (thankfully usually verbal more than anything else). As a wife, daughter, sister, friend, employee and coach I deal with disagreements and I try to always be calm and respectful, yet honest. Honesty and integrity and being clear and direct are important values to me in communication.

If elected/re-elected, how will you balance competing priorities that might exist between Education Minnesota and other education groups?

Throughout my life and multiple roles and my public service careers - as a cop, planning commissioner, and city council member - I've learned the importance of listening - really listening - to both or all sides of an issue when there are competing views. It's not always easy and certainly you can't make everyone happy. Sometimes no one is truly happy with the outcome but it moves everyone to a better place. I do my homework and care and listen to understand - those things have gotten me to this point in my life and have usually provided good outcomes when faced with difficult decisions or competing priorities. My goal is to do what's best for the common good.