

# 2020 Senate District 66 DFL Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Alice Hausman

Position Candidate Is Seeking The Endorsement For: State Representative, 66A

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Please respond to the following questions, limit 5 pages for the entire questionnaire.

**1. Education** What should the state do to address the educational needs of our children, the working conditions of our teachers, and educational opportunities for adults?

Since 2002 we have been falling behind inflation in our education funding. We must change that. That will be easier if we keep the House and take the Senate. Quality childcare, early childhood education, universal pre-k, focusing on the opportunity gap in our K-12 system, dealing with food insecurity and housing stability—the list is long. We need to be investing across that spectrum. In addition to sufficient compensation for teachers, we need to provide school support personnel, counseling, social workers, school nurses, especially at this time of greater mental health pressures.

**2. Youth Services** What would you do to better support our youth population?

Food insecurity and housing stability are also challenges for this age group. College students tell me that, because of tuition debt and high rental costs, food shelves have become a necessity on college campuses.

**3. Senior Services** As the size of the aging population grows, how would you address the increasing needs of seniors?

The fastest group of homeless are over 55. We need different housing models for this age group, including how we provide affordable long term care.

**4. Environment** 4a) In your view, what should be the state's role in mitigating and preventing climate change impacts? 4b) On a state level, do you oppose the construction of Enbridge Line Three?

We have made progress in moving away from coal to wind and solar. We have been less successful in the transportation sector. We need fewer cars and fewer plane trips, more public transit and inter-city passenger rail.

b) I oppose construction of line 3.

**5. Mining** 5a) What is your stance on copper-nickel mining in the state of Minnesota?  
5b) What alternative proposals do you suggest to bring needed jobs to the area?

I do not believe copper-sulfide mining can be done safely in a water-rich environment like northeastern Minnesota.

b) I learned about the issue of economic health in Northern Minnesota from a retired miner from that region. He instructed me to Google “resource curse”. I did and found research from around the country and around the world of resource rich areas. When those areas depended on one industry to extract the resource, the economic line was flat. When they diversified their economy, the economic line went up.

**6. Immigration** 6a) What concrete steps will you take to ensure immigrant Minnesotan's rights are protected/to protect these communities from unreasonable fear of deportation? 6b) Do you support the abolition of ICE on a federal level and noncooperation with ICE on the state level?

I support and encourage local law enforcement to avoid cooperating with ICE. Immigrants should have a driver's license to assure safe access to their jobs.

b) Yes, moving away from the fear of ICE and toward a path to citizenship is my desire.

**7. Labor** A new wage theft law was passed last year, yet there has already been a hearing to attack this legislation. Business owners and other employers feel that it is a burden and that there is too much confusion adhering to the law. In addition, employers are trying to get around this legislation by misclassifying workers as independent contractors (see legislation against this practice in HF4009/SF4018). What will you do to protect workers and this law?

I support HF 4009. As never before, we have to strengthen our ties to workers, to oppose unfair labor practices. I support strong unions. No game playing with the law. Workers deserve better.

**8. Transportation** Public transportation often gets reduced in areas where it is most needed. In your view, what should the state do about public transit infrastructure while addressing concerns about access and affordability?

We trail many of our economic competitors in the Midwest when it comes to our transit system. This is particularly true in the east metro. Workers shouldn't have to do three transfers and take an hour and a half to get to work. Because those at the lower income level are more likely transit dependent, we must assure equity in access.

**9. Housing** We are in the midst of a housing affordability crisis. What would you do to advocate for our district and the state in solving this crisis?

Nothing else in life goes well if you don't have a safe place to sleep at night. The problem is so big that all levels of government, local, state, and federal have to be involved. Non-profits and the private sector are stepping up and advocacy groups are effective. Plus we need new housing models. In Minneapolis, one group has brought back the rooming house. The resident has their own bedroom and bathroom and shares other spaces.

**10. Food Security** Would you support the State of MN funding breakfast, lunch and snacks for all Pre K thru 12 school children in public schools with no fees?

Yes. Our education dollars are better spent if children are not hungry.

**11. Healthcare** 11a) In your view, is healthcare a human right? 11b) Do you support passing single payer healthcare for Minnesota, and what would the transition look like? If not, what is your proposal to provide affordable healthcare for all Minnesotans?

- a) Yes
- b) I support universal health care. I have been either the author or co-author of the Minnesota Health Plan. Giving all the money and power to the insurance companies is not working. We pay twice as much as other industrialized countries for health outcomes that are not as good.

**12. Cannabis** 12a) The current medical cannabis program is not affordable (\$250 for certification, \$200 to participate, and hundreds of dollars for the medication) Will you work to make this affordable and accessible to all? 12b) Do you support the legalization of cannabis for adult use in Minnesota? 12c) If cannabis for adult use were to be legalized in Minnesota, what measures will you take regarding Minnesotans currently incarcerated under cannabis-related non-violent drug charges?

- a) I support a more affordable and accessible program, and we should allow more eligible uses.
- b) I support legalization of adult use of cannabis. I have been the author or co-author of most bills that have been introduced. With better regulation, we could assure a better, safer quality of the product.
- c) If the only reason they are incarcerated is for cannabis use, they should be released.

**13. Gun Control** What is your position on gun control, and what specific legislation would you be willing to sponsor?

This year, as in the past, I vote for background checks and for the red flag law. I have authored or co-authored most of the gun safety bills introduced, including bans on guns, magazines and ammunition.

**14. Women's Rights** Do you support the ERA becoming a part of the Minnesota Constitution?

Yes!

**15. Diversity** The folks at the endorsing convention will not fully reflect the diversity of gender identities, racial and ethnic identities, and religious affiliations in our community; if elected/re-elected what do you see as your role in addressing the needs of folks underrepresented?

That rich diversity has to be reflected at the table. I am partnering with MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) in my housing work. They have a strong commitment to assuring that diversity is reflected in their work and planning. We cannot make the right decisions if we are not hearing their voices.

**16. Corporate Money in Politics** 16a) Do you take campaign contributions from corporate PACs? 16b) What is the approximate average individual donation size currently to your campaign? 16c) What would you support at the state level to curb the role of corporate money in politics?

No.

- b) My treasurer knows. I would guess it is \$50.00 because of the PCR
- c) We need to guard against independent expenditures, have full transparency, and protect a program like the personal contribution refund which gives power to those at the lower end of the income spectrum.

**17. Ranked Choice Voting** 17a) Do you support ranked choice balloting, locally and the state-wide level? 17b) What do you see as positives and negatives of ranked choice voting?

Yes, I support ranked-choice voting as a way to assure more choice for voters. We do need to continue to educate about this as there continues to be some confusion among some.

**18. Public Health/Emergency Preparedness** 18a) If elected, what steps will you take to ensure that Minnesota is better prepared for the next pandemic? 18b) What steps should Minnesota be taking for emergency preparedness (such as COVID-19, grid collapse, etc.)?

- a) One of the things that becomes painfully clear during this health crisis, is that we need universal health care. We need everyone well cared for. That is the only way we protect all Minnesotans.
- b) We know now that we should have planned for sufficient inventory of equipment, masks, etc.
- c)

**19. Consensus Building** What are your strengths for positive community outreach and consensus building?

Connecting with people is my favorite part of this job, people of all ages and from all parts of the state. Because of my work in the Capital Investment to write and pass bonding bills, I have learned the importance of relationship building even when we have different points of view.