

SD66 DFL Candidate Statements

Your unit elects 23 delegates to State and CD Convention, so you can vote for up to 23 candidates. All delegate elections will be resolved by a gender balanced plurality vote. On the ballot, delegates are organized by their presidential preference (sorted by candidate last name) then alphabetically by last name.

As you vote today, remember that the DFL is committed to electing members of underrepresented communities to positions both within the DFL Party and in public office.

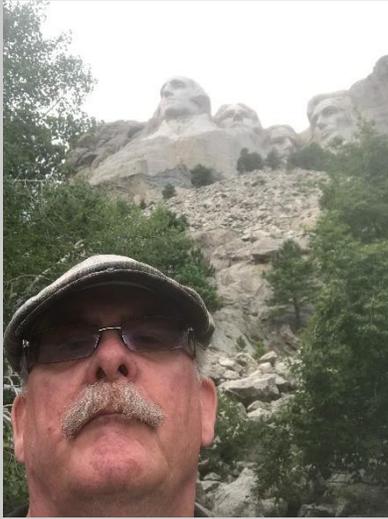


Ryun Thronson
Bernie Sanders - M

I am Ryun Thronson & I would like to be considered for SD66 DFL candidacy because I am reliable & I believe it is the progressive values of the DFL party that makes Minnesota the best state to call home.

Originally from South Dakota, I moved here to attend the University of Minnesota and decided this is where I would like to stay permanently. After a 15 year career at Best Buy, I now work from home in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood as a mortgage lender for the employee-owned, Minnesota-based Heritage Bank.

My wife Caroline is a nurse at Regions Hospital and has never missed a State Fair since she's been born. We are expecting our first child this September & plan to keep up that tradition. I'd love to be able to support the candidates who are willing to sacrifice their time, effort & resources to continuously make Minnesota the type of state where everyone can live out their dreams.



Roy Magnuson
Joseph Biden - M

In these challenging times I am running to be a delegate because I believe that it is important for DFLers to have many experiences represented. My primary career was as a classroom teacher at Como Park Senior High. I coached and was active in my local and state unions. In addition, I was active in the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, serving as a trustee and on the Executive Board for twenty plus years.

I currently am the Public Information Officer at the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office where a large segment of my duties is community outreach. I find that my DFL values are important in this setting as well.

I understand the importance of all of us finding potential voters this fall and convincing them that this is truly an important election. My personal and work world give me entree to many potential voters. I will be honored to be a part of the larger DFL process in 2020.

Douglas Root
Elizabeth Warren - M

I'm ready to do the work, reach consensus agreements with other delegates, build the party, and whatever else is necessary to get the best possible progressive leaders into every elected office in Minnesota and across our nation. Now is the best time to clarify the choices we will present to the November voters.



Elaine Tarone
Uncommitted - F

I support the Green New Deal, and especially the Homes for All agenda, increased large-family affordable housing, lead-safe homes; 2020 MN renters' agenda; single-payer universal health care; reproductive freedom; paid sick leave statewide; statewide minimum wage of \$15; transition to 100% clean energy by 2050; gun safety legislation; criminal justice reform; full voter enfranchisement; full funding of early childhood education programs; recognition of sovereign nation land use rights; renewal of violence against women act, environmental protection.



Patrick Barb
Bernie Sanders - M

I have been a resident of Saint Paul, MN for about a year, though my wife was born and raised in the Twin Cities. We have two boys, 4 and 1 years old, and our oldest attends Saint Paul Public Schools. As a parent, husband, and freelance editor/writer, I have greatly appreciated everything that the state of Minnesota has provided to us—including an opportunity to grow our family and my business, and to be actively engaged in the process of creating a better future, not just for the four of us but for everyone. I care deeply about education (ensuring our public schools and teachers have the resources needed), universal healthcare (via Medicare for All), and setting aggressive goals for reducing pollution/waste/creating new jobs and opportunities for those affected by these changes (Green New Deal).

Mark Miazga
Joseph Biden - M

I have been an active participant in the DFL party since moving to Minnesota in 1993 and co-founding the then Hamline University School of Law DFL unit with Tom Montgomery. Since then I have been active in numerous local, state, and federal DFL and Democratic party campaigns. I have also been an election judge and Ward 6 Saint Paul Head Judge during an over ten-year stint when we were residents of Saint Paul. During that time I also served for numerous years on the Saint Paul Long-Range Capital Investment Board where we made recommendations to the Saint Paul City Council on how bonding money should be spent on parks, recreation, library, public works, and planning projects. Since our move to Falcon Heights I have continued pursuing the DFL platform as a member and Chair of the Environment Commission and a member of the City Council.



Linda Zelig
Joseph Biden - F

I have been a resident of Senate District 66 for 46 years and an active member of the DFL for nearly as long. I have served on the Central Committee for four years and have been Treasurer for City of Roseville DFL for two years. I've never missed an opportunity to vote whether in national or local elections and I would welcome the opportunity to be a delegate to the next convention, be it remote or in person.



Keith Hardy
Joseph Biden - M

I am eager to serve as a delegate to the state convention so I can work with other delegates to 1) hone the DFL’s focus and advocacy for true equitable public education, 2) to increase healthcare options for elders and make accessing healthcare easier for them, 3) to create a sustainable economic recovery structure for small businesses in the post-pandemic period, 4) to eradicate sex trafficking, and 5) to eradicate systemic racism and sexism in all public services. Above all, I want to be a delegate to help coalesce recruitment and engagement of quieter voices to vote for strong DFL and Democratic candidates and incumbents at all levels of this year’s elections.



Joseph Zwack
Joseph Biden - M

I would like to be a delegate to the MN State DFL Convention. I am supporting Joe Biden's campaign for the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. In past years I have served in various roles of DFL activities in the Roseville area. These also include working on the campaigns of Mindy Greiling for House of Representatives, John Marty for Minnesota Senate, MaryJo McGuire for House of Representatives, and County Commissioner officers. I have been a Roseville resident for over 50 years.



Grant Abbott
Uncommitted - M

I am a strong social democrat with strong policy goals, but I also realize that democratic government requires that I respect those with whom I disagree. Here are the policies I care about deeply: universal healthcare, \$15/hr minimum wage for Minnesota and at the federal level, one week per year accumulated up to four weeks paid sick leave, paid six months pregnancy leave, access to free quality childcare and early education for all children, policies, such as, the Green New Deal, to reduce climate change, sensible gun regulations to reduce gun violence, a tax system that reduces inequality, and criminal justice reform that reduces racial inequality.



Lija Greenseid
Joseph Biden - F

Greetings! My name is Lija Greenseid, and I am a small business-owner who has lived in Como Park with my husband and two kids for the last 13 years. For the last two years, I have been an active advocate for affordable insulin, including organizing the first "Caravan to Canada" where I and other insulin advocates drove across the border to raise awareness of the high cost of insulin in the United States receiving local, national, and international news coverage. I'm very proud of the work that I contributed to helping to get the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act passed this session. I have not been a delegate before and would be honored to participate in democracy by doing so this spring.



Lauren Peterson
Bernie Sanders - F

I am interested in becoming a state and CD convention delegate for furthering the local voices of SD66. I am currently involved in local DFL business. I am the Chair of the Roseville DFL and have been involved in SD66 and DFL politics since moving to Roseville in 2016. I am also involved in local volunteering that helps me to keep in touch with what is going on in our community. I am the vice chair of the City of Roseville's Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission. I work full time as a physician assistant at a low income federally qualified health center in St. Paul and have a deep passion for providing care to underserved persons. I am also a mother to a 6-month-old baby boy which has changed my outlook on politics and living in a safe and equitable community. I would love to represent SD66 at the state and CD convention.



Sarah Lukowski
Bernie Sanders - F

Sarah Lukowski is a lifelong Midwesterner, first-generation college graduate, and National Parks enthusiast whose parent lost a job to NAFTA in the 90s; all of which shape her progressive vision today. She strongly supported Bernie Sanders in the presidential primary; as a Victory Captain she hosted 16 Get Out The Vote shifts, 16 other events including phone banks, door knocks, and organizing parties in MN; sent over 40,000 texts and traveled to knock doors in Iowa and Nevada. She is an enthusiastically active DFLer; precinct captain of Saint Paul Ward 4, Precinct 12; interim Outreach Officer for Senate District 66; and an active participant in Minnesota Young DFL and Saint Paul Young DFL meetings. Sarah is an organizer who is excited to drive turn out in November, talk to folks about the issues impacting their lives, and push DFLers to do even more to help our neighbors lead better lives with dignity. She would be honored to have your support to attend the CD4 and state conventions.



Duane Pulford
Joseph Biden - M

I have been a member of the DFL party for many years. We need not only strong candidates but also a strong get out the vote to defeat Donald Trump, Re-elect Senator Tina Smith, Re-elect our US house members, take back Us House district 1 and elect a DFL State house and Senate. I am also a union member. I support teachers and nurses.



Lori-Anne Williams
Uncommitted - F

This is the blue wave. This is the time for Democrats to come together, and I want to be part of setting that stage. I have the time and dedication to really consider the resolutions, platform, and candidates before us. I spend my days raising money for Catholic Charities, working to better our community by caring for our neighbors in need. I have served on the Ramsey County Library Board, and am currently a member of the SD66 Central Committee. Thank you for considering my candidacy.



Joel Carlson
Joseph Biden - M

Hi, I am Joel Carlson, a local Union Laborer, who has helped raise three children to adulthood in our wonderful city.

I am running for delegate to insure everyone, no matter where you come from, what you look like, what language you speak, that you have the ability to obtain meaningful work that can sustain you and your family in an environment that is healthy, safe and desired.

This involves creating and sustaining policies and platforms that share these goals. I ask you for your support in becoming your DFL Delegate.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Joel Carlson



Elizabeth Hansel
Joseph Biden - F

My name is Elizabeth Rose Hansel and I am a nursing student at the University of Minnesota. At a young age, I became interested in human rights, advocacy, and disability rights. As a result, I immersed myself into local politics, where I served as a youth commissioner on Roseville’s Human Rights Commission for three years. I also became a member of the Roseville Area League of Women Voters and I worked for the Minnesota League of Women Voters as a civic engagement fellow. Additionally, I began working on local political campaigns where I have done a variety of things, including passing out literature, making phone calls, and coordinating social media for various candidates. As somebody with a passion for politics, I would love to keep growing my political involvement by becoming a state and congressional district delegate!



Rachel Avenido
Bernie Sanders - F

I believe that the Minnesota DFL should strive to include more diverse voices in the decision-making process. I was inspired to become a delegate because I went to my local caucus and was one of the only people of color in the room. I would like to see more women of color representing our communities and calling for more perspectives to be included. We can energize more of our electorate when we see diverse races, ages, and other identities represented at all levels. I am excited to participate in this process as we figure out how democracy will work during this election year when we are in the midst of social distancing and finding creative ways to interact with one another. I am especially interested in resolutions to restore full voter enfranchisement and how we will meaningfully address climate change at both the local and national level. I look forward to interacting with other delegates in the process. Thank you for your consideration.



Dave Borton
Elizabeth Warren - M

First, kind of you to read this. My thanks. Who am I?

- ° Early supporter of Elizabeth Warren, both \$ and time. Sat the phone banks, time and again.
- ° Can't mourn. Need to do everything we can to ensure a Democrat occupies the White House come Jan. Let's get busy, eh?
- ° In MN, it is imperative that we flip the Senate while holding the House. More phones for me for both John Marty & Alice House/Cari Ness.
- ° I am also putting in hours with ISAIAH, an ecumenical, interfaith, interracial group. Focused on mail-in voting within state and low-income housing within St. Paul.
- ° Let me close with the personal. I love being a grandfather, a husband to the greatest wife imaginable for 50 years, a Dad to two adult women who are “giving back” in so many ways with their lives, a gardener to vegetables which I tease out of an organic garden, a mentor in Ramsey County’s Veteran’s Court (having served during Vietnam), a coffee roaster, and a guy who just wants to leave the world a better place.



Christian Berger
Elizabeth Warren - M

We’ve known for years about the cracks in our society: inadequate healthcare, inadequate housing, inadequate wages. Now, COVID-19 has widened every crack, all at once, and people are enduring hardship on an enormous scale. It’s vital we take action to help.

- When our healthcare workers are required to make life and death decisions every day, they deserve to work with the proper PPE.
- When our essential workers are risking their lives to keep the stores stocked, they deserve to be paid a living wage.
- When the crisis demands that people stay at home, every person should have a home to stay in.
- When more people than ever are weighing the costs of going to the hospital, every person should be guaranteed healthcare.
- When our President is more concerned with playing a blame game than doing his job, we need leaders who will fight for all of us.

I’m proud of the leadership we’ve seen from Governor Walz and our state DFL. Let’s make sure we keep Minnesota blue.



Theresa St. Aoro
Joseph Biden - F

First, I see this as an honor to be elected to move on to the Congressional District and State Conventions. The L in DFL stands for labor, and I have been a union member and activist for over 20 years. I work not only for union members, but all workers, and that is so important to have representation in the party.

I am also disabled, a very underrepresented group in the DFL. We need our voices heard on the platform as well as functions. There are still several challenges we face for accessibility, especially at conventions.

It has never been more important to elect Democratic candidates to get this country and state moving forward to advance progressive policies. I have worked hard phone banking and door knocking for candidates for years and my involvement with Democratic candidates will continue. Being a delegate will allow me to endorse Betty McCollum and help shape our platform moving forward.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to representing all of you.



Jack Rossbach
Bernie Sanders - M

Me: Grandpa, Dad, Vet, Senior, Jokester, Volunteer, Delegate, Activist, Environmentalist, Homeowner, Global Citizen, Political, Social.

I have been working for progressive issues like Bernie. Supported progressive Democratic candidates through phone calls, fliers, and door to door chats. I've been to many cities and attended many town halls. This has been my life's work. In addition to this,

I work

Combating Climate Change - Fought 40+ years for this to be a #1 political issue

Promoting Peace - Veteran for Peace and 9/11 NYC survivor. Anti-Militarism and Anti-NUC. I did Anti-weapons work and shared a little in 2 Nobel Peace Prizes.

Public Health – Universal Healthcare. EX OSHA Industrial Hygiene Engineer, Public Health Board, and MN Catastrophic Events Team Member. Concerned about Pandemic Response. Social Justice—Fair sharing of resources, Immigrant rights, Living Wage, Student Debt Forgiveness, Free Tuition, Governmental Transparency for every issue!



Jason Etten
Joseph Biden - M

Thank you for considering me to be a delegate to the CD4 and State Conventions. I would be honored to be part of the convention to help us as a DFL party continue to build on a legacy of good government, sound policy and leadership that is focused on a better future for Minnesota and our country. As a member of the City Council in Roseville I have a unique perspective. I have the opportunity to see the community broadly and understand many of the big issues in our area and how they tie to State and Federal actions. Having a strong party platform and electing candidates focused on what the State and Federal government can do to improve life for people, strengthen our environment, fully fund education and ensure that citizens can trust their government is critical. I would like to help make that happen. Thank you again for considering me to be a delegate to the CD4 and State conventions.

Diane Borton
Joseph Biden - F

I spent my professional life in youth development, specifically working with low income students of color. I am passionate about helping to make change for those living with injustice each day. The volunteer work that I do through Project Home, The Sheridan Story, and Como Elementary Tutoring enables me to stay connected to and help support diverse communities. However, to truly make an impact on injustice, state and national policies must change. I want to help implement some of those changes. I am a member of ISALAH and St. Timothy Lutheran Church's "Justice Seekers" group.

A few years ago I retired from the University of Minnesota where I was part of the leadership team. I am now discovering renewal as a volunteer, activist and organizer. I strive to assist in making connections and repeating some important stories.



Dennis Skovsted
Joseph Biden - M

I am connected with : ICOM (Interfaith Coalition On Immigration), the sanctuary arm of ISALAH, MIRAC (Minnesota Immigration Rights Action Coalition), and the Human Rights Defender-Court Observer Project sponsored by the Immigrant Law Center , FREC (Facilitating Racial Equity Coalition)and the ELCA St Paul Synod ARE (Advocating Racial Equity) work group.

My term recently end as a board and executive committee member of RCFL in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

I have been a caucus delegate often including one time to the state convention. I voted for Bernie Sanders but now join with Senator Sanders in strongly supporting Joe Biden. We must defeat Trumps reign of injustice in 2020.



Linda Lange
Joseph Biden - F

Linda Lange. Roseville Minnesota 66A. I am a recently retired RN and Attorney who has been the precinct chair (or co-chair) for decades. With brief exceptions, my entire career has been working in collective bargaining environments representing employees or as a union member myself. I am interested in proceeding to the State Convention and ask for your support.

Gwen Willems
Joseph Biden - F

It's imperative that we kick Trump out and elect a sane, progressive, humane, generous, and empathetic new president. I want to represent you at the 4CD and MN State Conventions to work for Joe Biden to be our nominee and our new president. It's hard to believe all the damage that's been done by Trump in just a little over three years—environmental rules gutted, the Supreme Court set back for decades, healthcare denied, voting restricted, the U.S. reputation ruined, and now more Americans killed by incompetence over COVID-19 than died in Vietnam.

I have served the local DFL responsibly over the years in roles varying from Ramsey Conservation District supervisor to donut-booth volunteer, from SD chair to precinct convenor, from newsletter editor to door knocker. It would be an honor to bring my experience and passion to the conventions.



Kevin Walton
Joseph Biden - M

I am glad to be a part of the DFL at this pivotal time in our nation's history. I am passionate that the DFL candidates represent the best hope for saving our nation and world from catastrophe and leading us to a more compassionate, just and healthy society. I bring with me 25 years of service with an NGO in Thailand doing community organizing and economic development in urban poor communities. I have a high value for inclusion, social justice, and environmental care. I am liberal in my views of economics and health care, and conservative in my personal moral beliefs. I am the leader of a faith community in Roseville and would be happy to serve in any capacity.

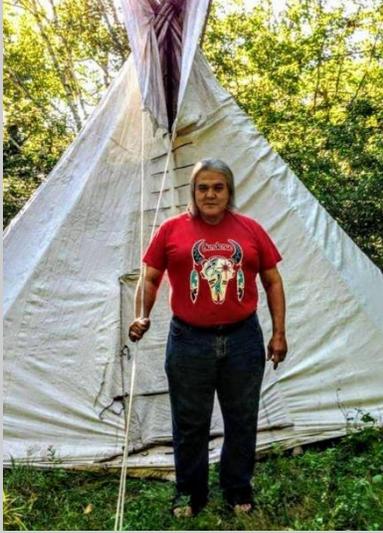


Hallie Finucane
Uncommitted - F

My name is Hallie Finucane, and I would like to be a SD66 delegate to the State Convention. I support Joe Biden, and will work hard for him since we must defeat Trump. I have been active with SD66, serving as Vice Chair and Director, and I am currently on the State Central Committee representing SD66. I've worked on many DFL campaigns, been on several committees setting up SD66 caucuses, walked with candidates in numerous parades, helped with SD66 picnics, and worked at the Donut Booth at the Fair.

Environmental issues are very important to me. In January, I volunteered to be a Co-Chair of the Endorsement committee for the DFL Environmental Caucus. We interviewed many excellent candidates for the US Congress and Minnesota Legislature, and selected candidates to endorse based on their responses to different environmental issues. I also participated on the Endorsement committee in 2018.

I would be pleased to represent SD66 at the State convention, and would appreciate your support.



Joseph Bester
Joseph Biden - M

I am enrolled in the White Earth Nation, same Reservation as Lt Gov. Peggy Flanagan. I have been a Sundancer since 1990, which means I was asked to dedicate my life to the people. I am the most progressive person I know, though the most important plan is to rid us of the threat in the White House. I support universal single-payer health care; The Green New Deal; \$15 minimum wage; Revoke permits for all Pipelines immediately and protect tribal lands while bolstering programs that serve Native people; I support all of Elizabeth Warrens plans though I would want the Democratic party and our nominee, Joe Biden to accept those parts that are going to help him win the presidency especially rooting out corruption and ensuring all Americans vote; I am a lifelong Democrat. As a child I door-knocked with Senator Humphrey. I served 3 terms on the State DFL Executive Committee; I was a National Delegate for Bill Clinton in 1996. I think we could use my experience at the national level this year.



K. Darlene Guy
Joseph Biden - F

I would love to have your support to serve as a delegate for the State DFL convention. I am a lifetime democrat and actively involved in supporting our party by serving and working to elect endorsed DFL candidates at all levels. I am currently serving as a Director for SD 66, Secretary for the City of Roseville DFL, Treasurer for Wayne Groff's Roseville City Council Campaign, and an Election Judge. Thank you for your consideration!



Thomas Lucy
Joseph Biden - M

Nothing is more important as a citizen than being a part of the democratic process. Therefore, I would like to continue on as a State Delegate.



Mercedes Tuma-Hansen
Bernie Sanders - F

I've always worked to get to know my neighbors and be active in my neighborhood. Being a delegate is a way to have conversations with neighbors and elected officials about our shared goals and challenges. I also feel that being able to be non-partisan is important, so I've been an election judge, and spoken with Republican elected officials too, because we can often find that we have more in common than we think. And, when it comes right down to it, our local and state elected officials are just people too, and I love talking to everyone. Just ask my husband!



Laurie Johnson
Joe Biden - F

Hi, I am a union construction laborer. I have been for over 30 years. I care about my neighborhood and my neighbors. I believe we need good paying jobs that can support a family. I feel we need to invest in the infrastructure of our state. We need good and safe roads and bridges in order to carry on with our lives and businesses. I am opposed to "Right to Work". It sounds good, but it is anti-union and it means lower wages for all people of Minnesota, not just union workers. I support prevailing wage and hiring locally. We need Minnesotans to build Minnesota, not workers from other parts of the country. This contributes to Minnesota families and supports the communities where they live and shop. I feel that our schools and our teachers need more support. They are teaching our children, our future. We need to invest in them in order to keep Minnesota strong and moving in the right direction. Please vote for me to be a delegate. Thank you.