



2020 Voter Guide



COVID-19 has shown us that government can be creative, flexible and act swiftly when necessary to support working families in Minnesota. In order to live up to our ideal of a state where every child has an equal chance at succeeding, bold, equitable solutions are called for. Together, it's possible to meet this moment of unprecedented economic and health challenges.

We know that significant investments in working families and their children pay off for both them and our state. As we move through this moment of acute crisis, we lift up our shared values and use them as a guide for what comes next. Every policy and funding decision should lead us to the future we want: a fair and just society where every one of us can thrive. As we rebuild, let's redesign our economy and systems so that they work for all of us. There has never been a more important time to work together to address Minnesota's health and economic disparities (among the worst in the nation).

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

Given the moral and economic imperative to ensure that every child has the resources and opportunities needed to meet his or her full potential, what strategies are you proposing to expand access to opportunity and reduce our racial disparities during and beyond COVID?

Since immigrant and mixed status families are excluded from many current programs designed to help children and families cope with health and economic impacts of COVID-19, what will you do to better support children in Minnesota's immigrant communities?

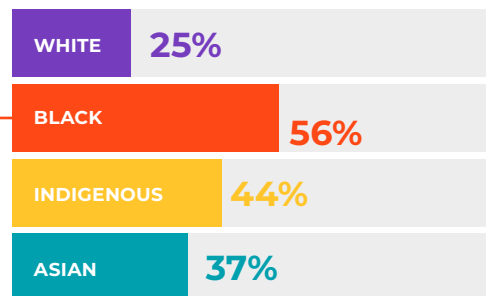
COVID has hit Minnesota families already under the most pressure hardest

The resources we allocate now must align with our vision for the future of a fairer, more just Minnesota.

Black workers are **6%** less likely to work at home and **11%** more likely to be essential workers with greater exposure risk than the overall Minnesota population.

7% of Minnesotans are Black, but they make up **22%** of the Minnesotans hospitalized for COVID-19.¹

PERCENTAGE OF MINNESOTA WORKERS WITHIN RACE APPLYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

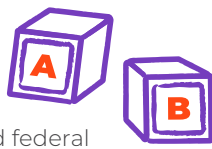


Source: <https://mn.gov/covid19/data>; 9/21/2020

Income Stability

Emergency public programs passed in Spring 2020 kept many families from becoming economically unstable. Unfortunately since COVID, employment income has fallen for 48% of Minnesotans with children compared to 36% for those without children. Access to paid leave to care for oneself or a family member is more important than ever, yet 73% of Minnesotans with children that were not working in late August were receiving no pay.² **Will you support continuation and expansion of safety net programs (Unemployment Insurance, paid leave, stimulus payments) that have helped families stay above water during the COVID-19 crisis? What public policies will you advance to help working families weather the crisis and maintain economic stability?**





Child Care

Flexibilities and a combination of state and federal economic supports have kept Minnesota's child care sector from collapsing in the face of extraordinary COVID challenges (as 92% have experienced increased costs and decreased revenues). Building on these emergency advances can help Minnesota address a longstanding mismatch between early childhood care needs and available resources.^{3,4} **What approaches will you take to ensure Minnesota has the adequately funded, high quality early care and education system necessary to support school readiness for all children and enable working parents to continue to stay employed in both the short and long term?**

Education

Access to high quality educational opportunities is a foundational building block for lifetime learning and development, regardless of a child's zip code, income, race or ethnicity. However, this access is further threatened by COVID as, due to multiple barriers of internet and technology access and communication with teachers and the school, a majority of MN parents reported a 'bad' or 'very bad' experience during spring 2020 distance learning – and the gaps were worse for Black, Indigenous, African and Latinx families.⁵ **What steps will you take to ensure every Minnesota child has the educational opportunities necessary for success during and beyond COVID?**



Health Care

Essential access to prevention services and treatment was provided by Medicaid (MA) or the Children's Health Insurance Program for an average of 493,708 children each month in 2019. Medicaid has also been an important tool in the state's efforts to ensure every child is born healthy, covering 29,572 Minnesota births annually.⁶ Program usage is bound to grow with a large number of families losing employer provided healthcare. **Given the possibility of tight federal and state budgets, what will you do to ensure child and family wellbeing through access to affordable health care?**



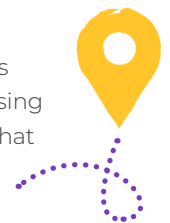
Food Security

Minnesotans with children are twice as likely as those without children to report food insufficiency within the past 7 days and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) usage is up by 14%.⁷ Minnesota's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program was expanded to include the cost of meals for younger children in pre-school settings and for children that would normally receive food through a summer feeding program. **How will you build on these successes to create a Minnesota where no child goes hungry, even as COVID impacts school and child care access to food?**



Housing

Housing assistance and eviction moratoriums have helped mitigate some of the worst harms of homelessness during the COVID emergency. Yet, Minnesotans with children are more likely to be experiencing negative housing impacts than those without children. Successful programs like "Homework Starts at Home" have recognized that for over 8,000 public school students each year lack of stable housing was an emergency before COVID.⁸ **What approaches will you take to continue supporting stable housing for Minnesota's children and families?**



COVID RELATED CHALLENGES ARE MORE COMMON FOR MINNESOTA HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN AND AFFECT MULTIPLE GENERATIONS

	Children in household under age 18	No children in household under age 18
Loss of income since March	48%	36%
Expected loss of income in next 4 weeks	24%	17%
Not caught up on rent	10%	3%
No or slight confidence in making next rent payment	24%	12%
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day or more than half of days	31%	25%
Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day or more than half of days	17%	14%

Source: Census Bureau, PULSE Household Survey, Phase 2 August 19-31, Minnesota detailed tables

1. <https://tinyurl.com/y3a3go5b> 2. Phase 2, PULSE Survey US Census Bureau 3. <https://childcaresdeserts.org/>; <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2016/10/27/225703/child-care-deserts/> 4. https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/naeyc_policy_crisis_coronavirus_survey3statebystatedata.pdf 5. <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/publicEng/?emci=6d47b824-5ecb-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=21c91a4d-a0cf-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=5838190> 6. 2018 Minnesota County Health Tables. 12/31/2019. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mchs/genstats/countytables/MNCountyHealthTables2018.pdf> 7. <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-21-20pov.pdf> and PULSE Phase 2 8. <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/home/>