

Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Action Agenda

Thank you for your interest in the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Platform. This document is part of the platform, known as the Action Agenda. These statements embody the beliefs and principles of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and consist of statements of support or opposition with regard to particular policies. Each of these items has received at least a 60% affirmative vote at the 2020 State Convention of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The categories are arranged alphabetically, and the ordering of the points does not reflect rank or priority.

Agriculture & Food

Support raising the current funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and support promoting local farmers and their efforts within the confines of that program.

Support eliminating corporate farm subsidies and support sustainable farming by promoting local sourcing of food, funding education, and providing added incentives for pesticide-free crops.

Support continuation and expansion for the "Farm to School" lunch programs, a local economic tool, that prioritizes investing in small and mid-size farms, developing local rural economies, keeping the food supply local.

Business & Community Development

Support expanding resources for a range of affordable housing: apartments, townhouses, and starter/small homes for individuals, families, and seniors throughout the state. Protect public housing and balance the rights of renters with the interests of property owners.

Support the federal Green New Deal goals of ending greenhouse gas emissions; establishing millions of high wage jobs and ensuring economic security for all; investing in sustainable and affordable housing and transportation for all; securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all; and promoting justice and equity with a ten-year mobilization effort.

Civil, Constitutional, & Human Rights

Support the call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that: (1) Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights and (2) Money is not speech and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Support the enactment of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which bypasses the Electoral College to guarantee the Presidency to the candidate receiving the most popular votes among the 50 states and District of Columbia, until/unless a constitutional amendment eliminates the Electoral College in favor of the popular vote.

Support banning discrimination on the basis of gender by aggressively advocating for removing the Equal Rights Amendment's (ERA) arbitrary ratification deadline, and adding an Equal Rights Amendment to Minnesota's Constitution.

Support legislation to grant full voter enfranchisement regardless of a person's past incarceration or criminal record.

Support a total ban on the practice of "conversion therapy" (also known as sexual orientation/gender identity change efforts, or reparative "therapy") as a therapeutic practice.

Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform providing a fair & compassionate Pathway to Citizenship, such as the Dream Act of 2019, which gives present DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship & permits new undocumented immigrants to apply for DACA.

Support legislative or constitutional protection for the full reproductive rights of women: including full access to affordable birth control and safe and legal abortions, protections against discrimination in hiring pregnant women, and legal guarantees for access to parental leave.

Support an Immigrant Bill of Rights for ALL to include: access to Driver's License, all Public Benefits, childcare assistance funds, MinnesotaCare, Paid Family & Medical Leave, Earned Sick & Safe Time, and establish Minnesota as a Sanctuary State.

Affirm that terminally ill adults should have access to a full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying, so mentally capable Minnesotans are free to make end-of-life decisions that are best for them and their families.

Support the right of sovereign nations to determine what construction projects take place in their respective territories and treaty lands.

Pledge to uphold our treaties with First Nations, which are defined as the "supreme law of the land" under the U. S. Constitution, and failure to uphold treaties is considered a violation of human rights under international law.

Support automatic voter registration at age 18, or when an eligible voter applies for or renews their driver's license or state ID, unless they choose to "opt out."

Call on our elected and appointed officials to take bold action to dismantle racial, gender, and economic injustice in our democracy, institutions, and our public programs.

Support policies to help fund immigrant legal resources to allow state & local governments to protect our communities by preventing the conscription of state & local resources for federal immigration enforcement work.

Education

Support ensuring all public school students have access to local, quality public education through an equitable funding formula in Minnesota and maintain a uniform high quality of public schools throughout the state.

Support Minnesota committing to investment in the state's future by fully funding public higher education including: University, college, technical, vocational programs, and affordable student loans.

Support school-based pre-kindergarten, taught by licensed professionals, being made available to all Minnesota four-year-olds.

Support full funding for all sustenance at public schools including, but not limited to, breakfast, lunch and snack time.

Support legislation that aims to reduce or eliminate Minnesotan's student loan debt.

Support fully funding the Childcare Assistance Program and Early Learning Scholarships taught by licensed professionals.

Energy

Declare a climate emergency. Mandate 100% carbon free electricity throughout Minnesota by 2030 and meet or exceed "net zero" emissions by 2050. Transition to an equitable, economically just and clean energy economy that provides high paying jobs in rural and urban areas while reducing racial, gender and economic disparities.

Government Accountability to the Public

Support a nonpartisan Independent Redistricting Commission be established to draw fair district boundaries at local, state and federal levels, after the 2020 Census, and for all future redistricting.

Support statewide Local Options legislation to permit Ranked Choice Voting in all municipal elections.

Support elections that are free, open and trustworthy, using transparent processes that are secure from outside influence and supported by an archival paper ballot backup, guarantee ballot access and ease of voting to all eligible voters, and allow the results to be rapidly and publicly verified.

Supports the prohibition of for-profit incarceration corporations from operating or leasing facilities in the State of Minnesota.

Support rules to require candidates for both President and Vice-President to reveal all income tax returns and schedules, including charitable donations, for a period of 10 years. This information shall be made public at least 6 weeks before the nominating convention.

Support our November Elections date being a state and/or national holiday so everyone can participate.

Health & Human Services

Support expanding public healthcare coverage, with a public option buy-in plan like MinnesotaCare (protecting it from funding cuts) with its current actuary value, that directly helps people face unaffordable costs and poor coverage.

Support the negotiation of lower prescription drug prices by Minnesota Care at the state level and Medicare at the Federal Level.

Support comprehensive, affordable health care choices for women, ensuring unrestricted access to reproductive health care services throughout the state with the understanding that all health care choices are made by the individual and that the decision to continue or terminate a pregnancy should be personal, private, safe and legal with no interference from politicians or health insurance providers.

Support policies that protect the rights of elders and vulnerable adults, including mandating a living wage for all direct-care providers (including family members), increasing reimbursement rates for elderly waiver and other state assistance programs, mandating adequate staffing ratios at long-term facilities, and increasing funding for regulatory oversight.

Support providing supportive services including subsidized housing for those experiencing chemical dependency, mental illness, and/or homelessness.

Support legislation that ensures insulin is affordable and accessible, including emergency sources.

Support full parity for mental and physical health, meaning coverage of mental health is equal to physical health coverage.

Support increased funding for infectious disease planning (including data collection), like COVID-19, and maintaining emergency preparedness including but not limited to pandemic planning, natural disasters and terrorism.

Labor

Support legislation that would provide up to twelve weeks of Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) for the birth or adoption of a child, parenting of a child or the care of a seriously ill family member.

Support a statewide minimum wage of \$15.00/hour with a One Fair Wage for all workers with no Tip Penalty.

Support Universal Child Care with no family childcare expense exceeding 7% of their family income and with childcare educators and childcare providers paid a living wage.

Support legislation to provide overtime pay above a 40-hour work week. Minnesota is the only state that has a 48-hour week in state law.

Oppose Right-To-Work legislation which makes it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Media and Internet Issues

Support implementation and expansion of the Border-to-Border statewide Broadband initiative. (1) by providing stable multi-year funding. (2) by eliminating corporate-monopoly sponsored restrictions, obstacles and preemptions. (3) by encouraging municipalities and, (4) by requiring all state-subsidized installers to go “the last mile” ensuring that every Minnesotan has access to today’s and tomorrow’s technology and that no one is left behind.

Natural Resources & the Environment

Support protecting Minnesota aquifers and fresh water sources from pollution, commercialization, and export; upgrade our drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

Support a moratorium banning copper-nickel sulfide mining in Northeastern Minnesota’s watersheds, for the protection of some of America’s greatest treasures including but not limited to Lake Superior, the BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park, until such time as such mining is proven first to be safe in water-rich environments.

Support policies to reduce or eliminate the use of unsafe pesticides (such as glyphosate, neonicotinoids and chlorpyrifos).

Support banning the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead or other toxic materials.

Oppose any effort to circumvent or weaken state or federal environmental laws or protections involving administrative procedures and permitting.

Support the US re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement.

Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Support common sense gun violence prevention measures to keep guns out of the hands of people who've proven themselves to be dangerous, including criminal background checks on all gun sales and extreme risk protection orders (often referred to as red flag laws).

Support the state authorization of a driver’s license for any resident who wishes to apply and comply with all requirements of testing, insurances, vision, and other necessary items. Eligibility shall not be denied on the basis of immigration status or non-status.

Support banning the sale and private ownership of military style semi-automatic weapons with high capacity magazines.

Retirement Security

Oppose cuts to Social Security and Medicare, improve the solvency of the Social Security trust through more accurate cost-of-living adjustments and eliminate the regressive cap on taxable income.

Tax and Budget Policy

Support tax fairness for working families and opposes tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy.

Transportation

Support efforts to develop sustainable public transportation, including mass transit, commuter rail, light rail, and buses, as well as viable options for pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized transportation options.

Urge the Minnesota Legislature to pass a large bonding bill that invests in state infrastructure and creates thousands of jobs.

Support the expansion of state corridor passenger rail services between Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, and the Twin Cities to Chicago with direct state appropriation and bonding, at the Minnesota Legislature and assure all passenger rail construction, operation and maintenance work is performed by union labor.

Veterans Affairs

Support Minnesota becoming the next state to end Veteran homelessness.

Support full funding and staffing of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to ensure continuation and expansion of high-quality health care to veterans including adequate staffing, necessary facility upgrades and expansions.