



**THE 2023-2024 PLATFORM REPORT TO THE SENATE
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS COMMITTEE**

To: Chair – Sen. Erin P. Murphy SD64
Vice-Chair – Sen. Nicole L. Mitchell SD47

Sen. Jim Carlson	SD52	Sen. Heather Gustafson	SD36
Sen. Steve A. Cwodzinski	SD49	Sen. Erin K. Maye Quade	SD56
Sen. Omar Fateh	SD62	Sen. Kelly L. Morrison	SD45

The resolutions listed below are from part of our DFL platform, known as the Action Agenda and have been identified as potentially being relevant to the work of your committee. The support for each resolution is given; the number of Congressional Districts and Organizing Units backing the resolutions, and the percentage of approval by the delegates to the State Convention.

Clean Water Infrastructure

Support substantial investments to upgrade and expand our failing public water infrastructure including water, sewage and stormwater systems to assure safe drinking water and to protect aquatic ecosystems from pollution. [8 CDs, 52 OUs, 92%]

Mental Health

Support the availability and funding of mental health and substance abuse treatment so all individuals who are in need of help, including children, have sufficient access to these services. [7 CDs, 9 OUs, 91%]

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Mental Health Support for Public Safety

Support a model of public safety that includes more professionals who are trained in mental health issues. [4CD's, 5OU's, 90%]

Safe and Secure Elections

Supports strengthening democracy by using 21st century technology to ensure all Minnesotans are able to cast their ballot freely, safely, and equally. We also support enhanced protections for voters and elections officials against threat or intimidation, foreign or domestic. [8 CDs, 34 OUs, 90%]

Affordable Housing

Expand 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. [7 CDs, 20 OUs, 88%]

Border-To-Border

Support the 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, (4) facilitate stronger Native Nations broadband access, and (5) go “last mile”; ensuring that no one is left behind. [8 CDs, 51 OUs, 88%]

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Support the development of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure throughout Minnesota, including rural areas, with adequate access. [8CDs, 29 OUs, 87%]

Civics Education

Support K-12 education that provides a quality civics education including the history of Minnesotans of all races. [8 CDs, 35 OUs, 86%]

Prevention of Rural and Urban Food Deserts

support innovative programs to identify and prevent rural and urban food deserts by establishing food coops and/or small independent grocery stores in both rural and urban communities through grants and/or tax credits. [7 CDs, 19 OUs, 82%]

Community Food & Water Resiliency

Support a sustainable, statewide, locally adapted food economy from source-to-table that is designed to be inclusive, expands SNAP benefits and helps create health and well-being for all people in rural and urban communities, including under-served communities such as Black, Indigenous, and immigrant communities, and the rural poor. [5 CDs, 9 OUs, 81%]

Veterans’ Health Care

Support fully funding and staffing the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Create a separate budget for the private sector Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), which will be fully managed by the VHA. Require all VCCP healthcare personnel to meet the same competency standards required at VHA facilities, including treating PTSD, TBI, MST and risk for veteran suicide. [5 CDs, 5 OUs, 81%]

Homelessness

Homelessness and housing are state-wide issues. All levels of government must renew their commitments to decent housing options, affordable for all. Solutions must include safe neighborhoods, removal of income and racial barriers to decent housing and ensuring no one must spend more than 30% of their monthly income on permanent housing. [4 CDs, 8 OUs, 80%]

Fair Payments for Agricultural Land Use

support adequate payment to farmer landowners when taking land out of production for buffer strips and waterways, with incentives to set up alternative agriculture production systems including haying and grazing. [7 CDs, 22 OUs, 78%]

Zero-Carbon

Supports a transition to 100% clean electricity by 2040 as part of a plan that reduces racial, gender & economic disparities and provides high paying jobs, while cutting greenhouse gases by 45% by 2030 and to “net zero” by 2050. We support a massive shift in electricity generation towards a future powered by wind, solar, storage, and a modern electrical grid that will power our homes, businesses, and transportation. [8 CDs, 59 OUs, 78%]

Electric School Buses for MN

Support funding for rapid replacement of diesel-fueled school buses with electric school buses, and the construction of necessary charging infrastructure. This will reduce greenhouse gases and create a cleaner, quieter, and healthier environment for our children. [5 CDs, 11 OUs, 78%]

Restore 100 beds to MN State Veterans Homes

Support immediate and full funding of work to restore the 100 skilled care nursing beds to our Minnesota State Veterans Home. [5 CDs, 7 OUs, 78%]

Insurance coverage of Neuropathy Care

Support legislation to require Tri-Care, Medicare, VA Health Administration, and all private insurance to cover the cost of neuropathy care for Veterans, and all Americans who suffer from diabetic foot-related issues. [4 CDs, 5 OUs, 74%]

Climate Impact Calculation

Mandates the calculation of climate impacts including external and social costs of carbon, for all new infrastructure projects; limit funding or deny permits for high-impact projects and incentivize those with the lowest carbon footprint; remove existing fossil-fuel based infrastructure as quickly as possible. [7CDs, 20 OUs, 73%]

From the DFL Ongoing Agenda

We Support

- Only voluntary enlistment in the armed services.
- Providing veterans and military personnel with the appreciation, respect, and benefits deserved because of honorable service to our country.
- Efforts to locate and bring home service personnel who are prisoners of war or missing in action.
- Ensuring public availability of government information.
- Adequate provision for the needs of physically, mentally or emotionally challenged persons, including in home and institutional care services.
- Institutional and outpatient mental health programs and services that provide equal access, continuity of care, and protection of patient rights.
- United Nations mediation of international conflicts and global reduction in armed forces and nuclear and conventional weapons.

We Oppose

- Terrorism, dictatorial and exploitative international policies.
- All forms of United States exploitation in foreign countries, and any attempts to dictate their political systems.

We present this report as a summary of the passion of our grass roots, a vision of our caring society. We appreciate your support for the DFL's legislative priorities as you move forward this session. Thank you for supporting the people of Minnesota.