

# 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 2024 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 & Land Stewardship**

### **Regional Food Systems**

Supports the development of regional food systems that provide nourishing foods, investments in small business development, food processing infrastructure such as small-scale meat processing, and marketing of goods and specialty crops that have environmental and economic benefits.

### **Regenerative Agricultural Support**

Supports direct financial support to farmers, research, technical assistance and education to rapidly implement a regenerative food and farming system that fosters successful small and mid-sized farms and rural and urban communities. This includes establishing perennial crops, rotational grazing and small scale livestock systems, cover crops, and no-till farming.

### **Soil Health**

Supports establishing and fully investing in a comprehensive soil health program that provides accessible grants and direct payments to farmers to implement and sustain soil-healthy practices, and that provides education, technical assistance, and research.

### **Plant-Based Food Options**

Supports a plant-based option, upon student request, as part of the Free School Meals Program.

### **Nitrate Contamination in Ground Water**

Supports the revision of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) feedlot rules to address nitrate contamination in groundwater, caused by poor animal management practices contributing to unsafe water quality in greater Minnesota. We support holding large-scale livestock operations accountable for pollution's cost to the environment and communities.

### **Pollinator Habitat Protection**

Supports comprehensive measures to safeguard pollinators such as the implementation of pollinator-friendly agricultural practices, recognizing the vital role these species play in crop pollination and sustaining our food supply and ecosystem health.

## **Civil, Human & Constitutional Rights**

### **Equal Rights, ERA**

Supports amending the Minnesota State Constitution to add an Equal Rights Amendment that guarantees women freedom from discrimination in word or in effect.

### **Abortion, Reproductive Rights, Roe v Wade, IVF**

Supports protecting people's rights to legal and safe abortion and reproductive health technology and medication. Health providers in Minnesota who offer abortion and reproductive health services will be protected in the legal system and by their employers.

### **End of Life Options**

Supports passage of the Minnesota's end of life option, affirming that terminally ill, mentally capable adults should have the freedom and bodily autonomy to request and obtain from their health care provider medication they may self-administer for a peaceful death.

### **Citizens United**

Supports overturning Citizens United with passage of a constitutional amendment to clarify that money is not speech. Further we wish to clarify that corporations are not people and should not be extended constitutional rights intended for natural persons--specifically, the protection of political speech.

### **Book Bans**

Opposes book bans at all levels of government, schools, and public libraries, especially when targeting marginalized communities such as the LGBTQIA2S+, BIPOC communities, disabled community, and women.

### **Christian Nationalism**

Condemns white Christian nationalism in all its forms and considers it a threat to democracy and our constitutional freedoms. The DFL is committed to the separation of church and state and protecting the free exercise of religion. Religion should not be used to justify discrimination.

### **Indigenous Treaty Rights**

Supports the state of Minnesota upholding all of our treaties with Indigenous Minnesota tribes, including those involving manoomin (wild rice). These treaties are defined as the "supreme law of the land" under the U.S. Constitution. Failure to uphold treaties is considered a violation of human rights under international law.

### **LGBTQIA2S+, Transgender Rights**

Supports the Transgender Bill of Rights legislation ensuring equal access for services and public accommodations, recognizing the right of bodily autonomy and ethical healthcare, promoting safety, and enforcing the civil rights of transgender and non-binary people.

### **Redistricting Commission**

Supports establishment of an independent non-partisan redistricting commission to take redistricting out of the control of partisan legislative bodies.

### **Academic Freedom**

Supports respecting the tradition of academic freedom and reject censorship of curricula, lectures, and campus organizations, based on unpopularity or on political pressure.

### **Antisemitism**

Condemns antisemitism in all its forms, including the targeting of Jews as individuals, or as a people, and is committed to combating anti-Jewish bias in all of its manifestations.

### **Islamophobia**

Condemns anti-Muslim activity in all its forms, including the targeting of individual Muslims and as a people, and is committed to combating anti-Muslim bias in all of its manifestations.

### **Voter Rights**

Supports democracy with free and fair elections. We support codifying voting rights protections to prevent discrimination and address inequities in voting access, and codifying a voter's standing to challenge the state, or localities, that implement new voting rules that create inequities.

### **Immigration**

Supports comprehensive immigration reform at the Federal level starting with a road to citizenship for "dreamers," resolving the border crisis, and providing adequate funding to adjudicate cases quickly.

## **Community Development & Local Business**

### **Rural Housing Shortage**

Encourages the passage of legislation that addresses the shortage of available housing, affordable, and traditional in rural Minnesota.

### **Affordable Housing**

Supports State & local government to require investment in affordable housing for renters as well as for lower income 1st time home buyers.

### **Green New Deal**

Supports a Green New Deal to rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions and provide an equitable energy future, renewable electricity, affordable housing, multi-modal transportation options, and clean energy jobs.

### **No Lead in Drinking Water**

Supports ensuring safe drinking water in all Minnesota homes by mapping and replacing all lead water pipes by 2033.

### **Publicly Financed Housing**

Supports critically needed investments in housing infrastructure and ensures that all forms of public financing include high-road labor standards, greater levels of transparency and project owner accountability.

### **Energy Infrastructure**

Supports policies for all housing initiatives to utilize more efficient mechanical building systems, intelligent sensors for lighting and climate control, low-flow plumbing fixtures, heat pumps, and solar arrays.

### **Job Training Clean Energy**

Supports the development and implementation of clean energy job training, mentorship, and job placement programs for people with limited resources.

### **Housing, Homeless**

Supports investing in robust emergency housing programs - both preventative and responsive - to assist people who experience homelessness. Increase access to housing for more Minnesotans and support ongoing investments to develop additional housing that is permanently affordable.

## **Consumer Protection**

### **Safe Water Quality**

Supports policies that ensure access to clean and accessible drinking water for all Minnesotans.

## **E-Waste**

Supports providing free collection of electronic waste for all Minnesotans to increase the electronic waste recycling rate, conserve precious metals, and keep these materials out of traditional waste disposal streams.

## **Right to Repair Laws**

Supports right-to-repair laws that protect the ability of consumers and third parties to repair consumer electronics and agricultural equipment.

## **Scam Victims**

Supports creation of a Consumer Fraud Restitution Fund to give victims a chance to recover financially by allowing the Minnesota Attorney General to sue fraudsters and direct the penalty money into a restitution fund for victims.

## **Corporate & Business Accountability to the Public**

### **Utility Accountability**

Supports legislation, like the Utility Accountability Bill, to increase transparency in the private management of public infrastructure, and to prohibit the use of customer funds, directly or indirectly, for political influence campaigns.

## **Education**

### **Comprehensive Sex Education**

Supports age-appropriate and science-based sex education that includes sexuality and reproductive health for all students in public and charter schools.

### **2-year Degree Education for All**

Supports that all Minnesota residents shall be eligible for a tuition-free, 2-year associate degree or vocational program regardless of family income.

## **Government Accountability to the Public**

### **Local Option for Rank Choice Voting**

Supports Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Option legislation -- allowing all cities, counties, and school districts to adopt RCV if they wish.

### **Eliminate the Electoral College**

Supports an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College and replace it with a popular vote to elect the President and Vice-President.

### **Protect Election Officials**

Supports state and local governments committing to protecting election officials if threats are made against them, preventing the presence of those seeking to intimidate voters, actively enforcing punishment for such activity as described by MN statute, prohibiting attempts to impersonate election officials.

## **Health & Human Services**

### **Healthcare, Universal Single-Payer**

Supports legislation for a health care system that puts patients over profits, by enacting the Minnesota Health Plan at the state level and the Medicare for All Act of 2023 at the national level.

### **Oppose Medicare Privatization**

Opposes Medicare privatization by adding benefits (vision, dental, hearing) to traditional Medicare which is now only offered in private Medicare Advantage plans, eliminating 20% co-pays (as needed for supplementing Part B Medicare), and recouping funds overpaid to Advantage Plans.

### **Oppose Healthcare Privatization**

Supports the creation of a healthcare regulatory system that provides affordable, accessible, and local, quality healthcare services based on community need and not corporate profitability, by returning healthcare management exclusively to non-profit healthcare organizations and by holding them fully accountable to their mission and tax-exempt status.

### **Childcare Shortage in Rural Minnesota**

Supports the passage of legislation that addresses the shortage of available child care in rural Minnesota.

### **MNCare Public Option**

Supports the enactment of a MinnesotaCare Public Option that expands coverage to all Minnesotans not currently eligible; offers premiums on an income-based sliding scale; and provides comprehensive coverage, including vision and dental; and which ensures a broad network of coverage to our rural citizens.

### **Nurses, Safe Staffing**

Supports safe staffing legislation that sets a maximum number of patients that a registered nurse can take care of at one time; and provides mental health support, professional development resources, and competitive living wages that will keep Minnesota nurses working at the bedside.

### **Mental Health**

Supports funding for mental health services for adults and children to ensure equitable access to mental health providers and mental health resources and programming.

### **Homelessness**

Supports the development and funding of a humane response to encampments that recognizes homelessness as a public health issue.

### **Rural Emergency Medical Services**

Supports incentives, training, and funding needed to support the viability of Emergency Medical Services in rural Minnesota.

## **Labor & Employment**

### **Livable Wage**

Supports a livable wage being established as a minimum standard of compensation for all workers in Minnesota based on the local cost of living.

### **Teacher pension**

Supports investments to fully fund teacher pensions and increase the flexibility for retirement, including the "Rule of 90".

**Worker Strike Benefits**

Supports unemployment insurance benefits to workers on strike, including both permanent and temporary workers.

**Strong Unions**

Supports Minnesota as a state where everyone is able to live a secure healthy and happy life, where all workers have the freedom to join together in strong unions to build a brighter future for our families and our communities.

**Oppose Right to Work**

Supports the continuation of Minnesota as a non "Right to Work" state and supports the federal "Protecting the Right to Organize Act."

**Better Teacher Pay**

Supports direct investments in the compensation of Minnesota public educators, including a starting wage of \$60,000 for teachers and a minimum wage of \$25 per hour; and higher compensation for permanent faculty in the state colleges and universities.

**Educator Health Insurance PEIP**

Supports providing affordable, reliable health insurance to educators by strengthening the Public Employees Insurance Program, and advocating for policies that make health insurance more affordable for all.

**Worker Misclassification**

Supports legislation that uses the pro-worker presumption of employment; the ABC test to ensure Minnesota workers are properly classified and can enjoy all the rights, protections, and benefits they deserve as employees.

**Media****Broadband Installation Standards**

Supports raising standards for broadband installation, including requiring use of a skilled, well-trained workforce to ensure worker and public safety, and to protect the integrity of existing public and utility infrastructure.

**AI Regulation**

Supports strong regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the federal and state level that protects name, image, likeness, and creative work in social media and AI; and that protects citizens and businesses from malicious use of AI.

**National Security****Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid**

Supports immediate release of hostages, and prisoners held without trial, immediate humanitarian aid, and an immediate cease-fire through continued peace efforts in Gaza.

**Ukraine**

Affirms our diplomatic and military support of Ukraine to resist Russian aggression.

## **Natural Resources and the Environment**

### **Reduce or Eliminate Use of Unsafe Neonicotinoid Pesticides**

Supports policies to reduce or eliminate the use of unsafe pesticides (e.g., glyphosate, neonicotinoids, chlorpyrifos) in agriculture and recreational land or lawns; require businesses selling plants disclose if their plants have been treated with neonicotinoids; and urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to prohibit neonicotinoid use.

### **Ban Toxic and Carcinogenic Substances**

Supports banning toxic and known carcinogens (cancer causing), endocrine disrupting and neuro-toxicants in consumer goods beginning on January 1, 2026.

### **Oppose Efforts to Weaken or Circumvent Environmental Laws**

Opposes any effort to weaken or circumvent or evade state or federal environmental laws or protections involving administrative procedures and permitting regarding environmental regulation and support protections.

### **Extend Producer Responsibility, Reduce and Prohibit Plastics in Packaging**

Supports extended producer responsibility for plastic, requiring producers to collect 70% of the plastic packaging they generate within five years, and reduce the plastic packaging they produce by 50% within ten years. Prohibit all toxic substances and materials in plastic packaging, and ban or significantly reduce single-use plastics.

### **Conserve, Manage and Protect Aquifers**

Supports new groundwater laws, regional management, and state oversight of aquifers to assure that conservation measures are followed, surface waters are protected, and future demand does not exceed the aquifer's capacity for recharge amid climate change and regional population growth.

### **Prohibit Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle**

Supports the prohibition of lead ammunition and fishing tackle.

### **Accelerate Protection and Restoration of Forests, Prairies and Wetlands**

Supports accelerated action to protect, restore, and improve management of forests, prairies, and wetlands to fight climate change and preserve natural places for people and wildlife.

### **Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining**

Supports the Minnesota Legislature holding hearings on copper nickel mining, and supports withholding all permits for copper nickel sulfide mines in Minnesota until it can first be proven that such mines can be operated safely in our water rich environment and not violate state, federal, and tribal water quality standards.

## **Public Safety**

### **Mental Health Teams**

Supports funding of policies like Mental Health Teams that reduce the societal burden we have placed upon our police officers, allowing police to focus on being peace officers.

### **Gun Violence Prevention**

Supports establishing a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention, investing in evidence-based solutions to prevent gun violence, such as community violence interventions and strengthening support for victims and survivors of gun violence.

### **Owners Report Lost or Stolen Guns**

Supports that all gun owners be required to report lost or stolen firearms to local law enforcement.

### **Ban Assault Weapons**

Supports banning the sale, purchase, transfer, loan, transportation, distribution, importation, and manufacture of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

### **Safe Storage of Firearms**

Support requiring gun owners to store their firearms locked and separate from ammunition.

## **Racial, Ethnic, Gender, LGBTQIA2S+, and Economic Justice**

### **Gender-Affirming Rights**

Supports the Gender-Affirming Rights Act to protect the safety and well being of all Minnesotans by affirming and supporting individual gender identities.

### **Manoomin/Psiñ Rights, (wild rice)**

Recognizes that Manoomin/Psiñ (wild rice) is sacred and central to the culture and health of indigenous peoples in Minnesota and critical to the health and identity of all Minnesota citizens and ecosystems, and that it deserves protections from climate change, invasive species, pollution, and destructive development.

## **Retirement Security**

### **Aging in Place Services**

Supports state programs and funding designed to help seniors age in place, organized to enable community-based nonprofit senior support organizations to direct state-funded services to individual seniors and families based on their unique needs, with increased flexible funding to ensure a wider range of services, including building community.

### **Social Security Viability**

Supports the elimination or increase of the cap on earnings that are subject to Social Security taxes, in order to secure the future viability of the program.

## **Tax & Budget**

### **Progressive Wealth Tax**

Supports a progressive wealth tax on incomes of \$100 million or more that increases with higher levels of wealth.

## **Transportation**

### **Sustainable Transportation**

Supports development of sustainable transportation in all areas of the state, including safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, mass transit improvements, streetcars, commuter rail, light rail, buses, charging stations for electric vehicles, and reduction of air travel emissions.

### **Metro Mobility**

Supports expanding access to affordable, convenient public transportation, including Metro Mobility.