



MINNESOTA
VALUES
PROJECT

POLICY AGENDA 2027

A MORE AFFORDABLE LIFE FOR MINNESOTANS

Prices are skyrocketing while corporate profits soar. Wages have stagnated while income inequality grows. Local economies are suffering as Trump's disastrous policies hit them. We are more focused than ever on making life affordable. We are committed to resetting the economy to work for people rather than billionaire CEOs and their corporations, so Minnesota families can thrive more than just survive. Here's our plan:

Bring down costs that are way too high:

- *Health care and prescription drugs*
- *Childcare*
- *Housing*
- *Groceries*
- *Energy bills*



A Health Care System that Works:

In the wealthiest country in the world, people shouldn't have to go without the care they need because they can't afford it. Insurance companies shouldn't be denying you the care that your doctor says you need, and they shouldn't be padding their profits at your expense. You shouldn't have to choose between the medicine you need to live, and putting food on the table.

We will work to get as close as we can to high-quality health care for all as a state, because Minnesotans deserve it. Here are some of our priorities for your health care in 2027:

- *Establish Universal Primary Care*, because when everyone can go to the doctor for a check-up, you avoid costly emergencies in the future.
- *Expand access to public health care options like Minnesota Care*, allowing more Minnesotans to have health insurance outside of the profit-driven market.
- *Rein in corporate consolidation in health care* by getting middlemen (MCOs) out of public programs and responsibly managing mergers and acquisitions in a way that puts communities first, which will preserve access to healthcare services in rural communities and help drive down your health care bills.
- *Hold Big Pharma and Pharmacy Benefit Manager middlemen accountable* and make sure they're not ripping you off.
- *Protect health care services that have been gutted by Trump*. Minnesota should support rural clinics, trauma centers like HCMC, emergency services across the state, Planned Parenthood clinics and other reproductive care, and critical long-term-care services for the elderly and disabled. People will suffer if we don't support rural and safety net providers after federal cuts.
- *Protect health care centers* that have been gutted due to Trump cuts and are at the brink of closure, including rural clinics, trauma centers like HCMC, and emergency services across the state. People will suffer if we don't support rural and safety net providers after federal cuts.
- Protect consumers from hidden costs and unfair denials, *reining in prior authorizations and denied claims*. You should get the care your doctor says you need, without barriers from your insurance company.
- *Putting barriers around private equity firms* who are buying up care facilities - health care should be about health, not profit.
- Regardless of your background, income, zip code or immigration status, you deserve health care when you need it. No one should be turned away when they need life-saving or sustaining care - it's a Minnesota value.

A Place to Live Without Breaking the Bank:

Our housing market has been overrun and overtaken by profit-seeking private equity firms, who are buying up homes and driving up costs. Rent shouldn't be this high. Property taxes shouldn't be this high. We don't have a free market - we have a rigged one - and we're here to set it right.

- **Ban private equity firms** from buying up an excessive amount of homes in our state, which has artificially inflated housing prices and pushed people out of their homes.
- **Protect manufactured housing residents** from the abusive practices of corporate park ownership.
- **Stop algorithmic price fixing schemes** that large landlords use to illegally increase rents.
- **Re-structure regressive property taxes** that are hard to keep up with, especially for seniors on fixed incomes.
- **Jumpstart construction of more homes** of every kind and in the places where people want to live, creating more housing choices for families from border-to-border through public investment and policy reforms



Feeding Your Family Within the Family Budget:

We can't do much about economy-destroying tariffs at the federal level, but we'll take steps where we can to make sure Minnesota families can have food on the table at affordable prices. Here's some things we can do as a state:

- **Ban scammy AI surveillance pricing** that have been embraced by big grocery chains to change prices on electronic tags (which we should also ban) through facial recognition. As technology rapidly develops, we need reasonable regulations to protect the public from practices like this that could hit your budgets.
- As the federal government decreases money for food assistance at a time when costs are rising, we could make up the difference to make sure Minnesota families have access to good, healthy food, while lessening the burden on property taxes.
- **We'll support local farms and new farmers** that can supply food without the shipping. There's no food without farmers.

Reliable, Affordable Energy with the Future in Mind:

In Minnesota, we already have the cold to deal with, and now gas prices are soaring while large corporations bring in huge profit margins. We're fighting for a better deal. We have policy solutions on the table that both decrease prices while moving to cleaner energy so our kids can have a future without the disastrous effects of climate change.

- We want to cap late fees on utility bills - as prices are increasing, there needs to be reasonable limits on huge late fees families can experience while they adjust.
- We're ready to invest in weatherization and clean heat for both homes and small businesses that will help families update their buildings, use less energy, and decrease costs.
- We want to save ratepayers money by removing the ability for utilities to charge ratepayers for lobbying and CEO pay, following the lead of Colorado.

Accessible, Affordable Child Care:

We must address the cost of childcare for Minnesota families. Young families in Minnesota are spending more than half of their salaries just for the ability to go to work, keep their jobs, and ensure quality care and early education for their children. The first years of a child's life are extremely important for development and success, and every Minnesota family deserves access that doesn't break the bank.

- **Low or no-cost child care access for every Minnesota family**, as universal and in as many towns in the state as we can make it. This will mean more investment in public pre-K, Head Start, and community-based childcare in all corners of the state.
- Support a system that can **recruit and retain quality child care educators**, allowing them to stay in this essential work and allowing your children to have consistency in the years that matter most.

KEEPING MINNESOTANS SAFE, PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS

Keeping Minnesotans Safe from Preventable Gun Violence:

We're the only country in the world where the leading cause of death for children is gun violence. Tragedy after tragedy happens, and folks on the other side of the aisle say there's nothing we can do about it - which isn't true. There are evidence-based, reasonable regulations on the most harmful tools for mass shootings that we can put in place to save lives. We're committed to listening to the families of victims and survivors of the Annunciation shooting and other gun violence survivors, and taking action to prevent future tragedies and protect Minnesotans.

- We can **ban semi-automatic assault weapons**, which worked to decrease gun violence federally in the 90s, and should have been law all along. Just because they might be fun in a gun range, doesn't mean we need the wild west for the most unreasonable huge weapons, when they put our kids in danger.
- We can **ban high-capacity magazines**, because no one needs 100 rounds of huge bullets to hunt, and the pauses between magazines are shown to save lives.
- We can support crisis intervention, invest in community-based prevention strategies, and educate the public and law enforcement about existing tools like Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
- We can make sure **social media companies are flagging potential threats of mass violence** from their users to law enforcement, addressing violence before it happens.
- We can allow local municipalities to make their own rules about the sale and distribution of guns, which is democracy working and allows them to respond to tragedies in their area.
- **We can end the proliferation of ghost guns**, which are used to evade traditional background checks and often used in crimes because they are untraceable.

Protecting Democracy, Responding to the ICE Occupation:

Minnesotans have faced a year of crisis, through no fault of our own, while the federal government has moved to defund our state and infringe on the rights of our neighbors. We love Minnesota, which is why we fight for it. We care about truth, safety, and accountability, which is why we need safeguards in place so nothing like Operation Metro Surge can ever happen again in our state. We're committed to responding to the attack on our state with action, so Minnesotans can feel safe in our communities.

- *Fighting for accountability for Minnesotans killed and injured by federal agents*, who should have their day in court.
- Putting safeguards around our fundamental rights against unlawful search and seizure, due process, our ability to organize, and our ability to speak out. No one should have to carry a passport on them at all times, because of the color of their skin or their accent.
- Federal agents should be kept away from the essential spaces of our lives - schools, daycares, hospitals, courtrooms, unless they have a judicial search warrant to be there. Our students, educators, and medical professionals deserve peace of mind if another surge happens.
- We have a safe and secure election system in Minnesota; we lead the nation in voter participation. While Trump and federal officials threaten action at our polling sites, we'll make sure your right to vote is protected, and your voice matters just as much as everyone else's (including corporations and billionaires).



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-20 DEGREES

“YOUR STRENGTH AND
YOUR COMMITMENT TOLD
US THIS IS STILL AMERICA.
AND THIS WILL NOT STAND.”

— BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

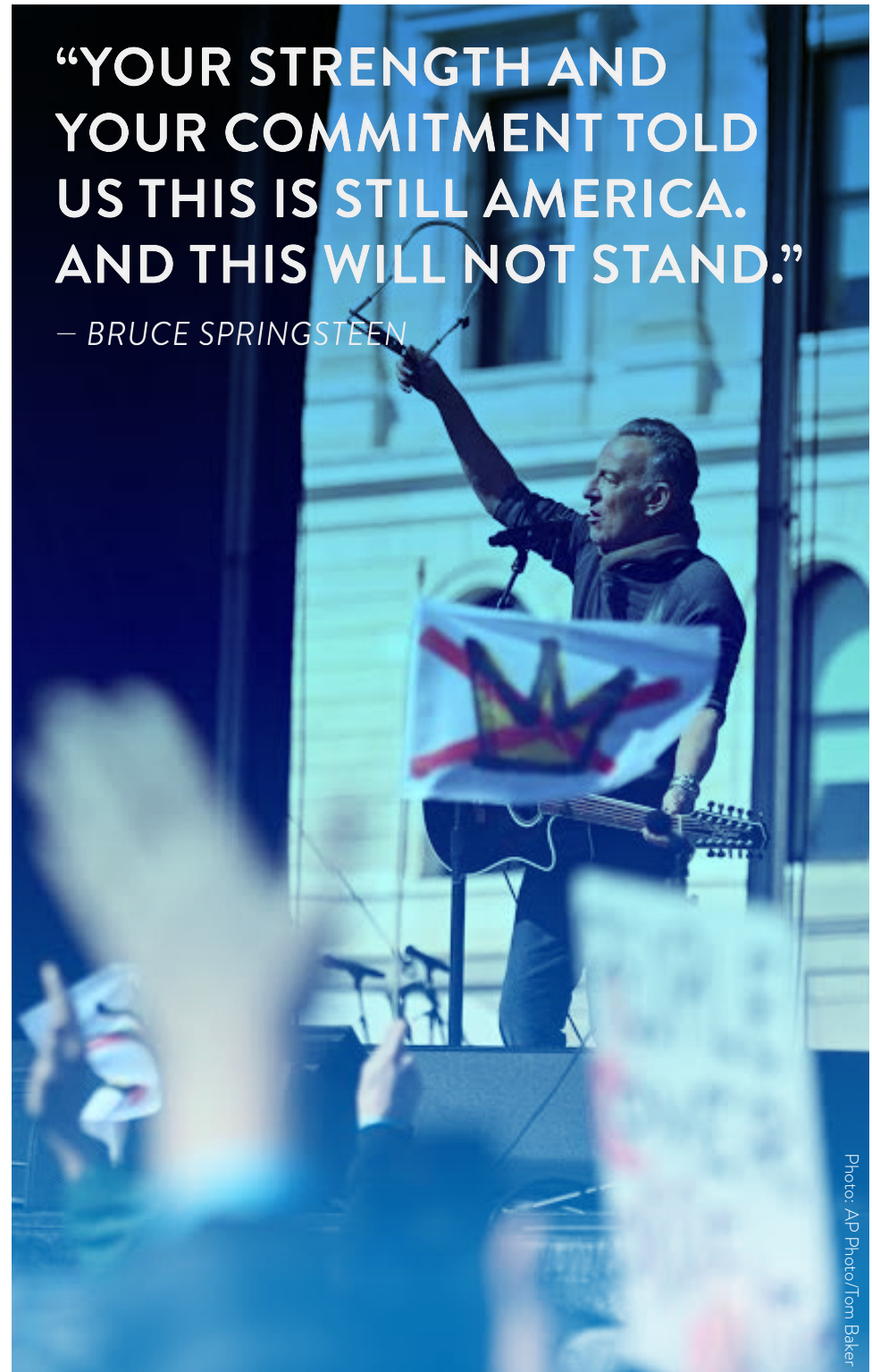


Photo: AP Photo/Tom Baker

A Minnesota for All People:

Republicans are more focused than ever on controlling how we live, who we love, and what we can do with our bodies. No matter your background, race, job, identity, or sexuality, Minnesota is a welcoming and vibrant state for you. We're focused on protecting fundamental rights for all people in Minnesota, which is very Minnesotan of us.

- While the federal government dismantles reproductive rights, and other states move to control their citizens more, we're committed to **protecting access across the state to birth control, IVF, and abortion for those who need it.** Politicians shouldn't be making decisions about the health care you and your doctor believe you need - which is why Minnesota will be a safe haven for reproductive health care into the future.
- We'll fight to protect Minnesotans from discrimination, no matter their race, national origin, ancestry, disability, identity, gender, or sexuality. This is about creating a society where there are safeguards against unfair practices that harm people based on their immutable traits. We'll stand up for human rights, and defend against people who are trying to make life harder for you - including passing the Equal Rights Amendment.



A FAIR SOCIETY, WHERE EVERYONE CAN GET AHEAD

Strong Public Schools Where Every Kid Can Succeed:

We've been working to reverse a decade of underfunding our schools during the Pawlenty years, and our kids deserve more. They deserve high-quality environments where they can be focused on learning, and they deserve consistent, quality educators who are supported to stay in their essential jobs.

- **Invest in quality, accessible Special Education,** even when the federal government won't. People with disabilities are on the chopping block of Trump's disastrous legislation, and we need to invest in them.
- **Stabilize the compensatory school funding formula** so schools don't see a sudden drop in budgets and can continue to meet the needs of students and educators in public schools.
- **Continue our investment in unemployment for seasonal school workers.** These are low paid jobs that workers often leave in the summer, and can't come back due to the low pay afterwards. Bus drivers, nutritional workers, paraprofessionals, and building staff are essential parts of school communities and are important to students' experience in school.
- **Create a public health insurance pool for educators.** Private insurance companies have made a mark on our public school districts, raising rates by double-digits and draining school budgets. There are educators who are being asked to choose between a pay raise to address inflation and mitigation for health care increases. In the wealthiest country in the world, where we know education is essential for a successful economy, we shouldn't be dealing with this - which is why we should move educators, who are public employees, to a public health plan.
- The number one thing students ask us for is mental health support in schools. Students deserve quality, consistent mental health professionals, accessible when they need them without insurance barriers.



Banaadir Elementary School Visit



Creating Good Jobs and Supporting Workers

- Wages, Working Conditions, and Voice:

We are committed to moving forward a good jobs and workers-first agenda, because if you work hard to make a living, you should be able to get ahead. In the wealthiest country in the world, where wages have stagnated and profits have soared, no one should have to work two jobs to put food on the table. We build a strong economy by creating good jobs, supporting workers, and ensuring regular people can afford what they need. Here are some of our priorities for workers:

- As we experience the wide-ranging and quickly-developing effects of AI, **we need to protect jobs**. In most jobs, a human is better than a computer system, and our society will be hurt by extreme unemployment if we have no safeguards against it.
- **Every worker deserves to be listened to and safe on the job**. Because of unions, we have better worker protections in legislation than ever before, and there are less construction injuries, harmful health effects, and more safety precautions for workers. We continue to listen to workers about their actual experiences, and respond to systemic problems they're seeing with their working conditions with policy solutions.
- We defend workers when Republicans come after their wages, benefits, and right to organize. We've seen what anti-union efforts have led to in other states, and that has no place in Minnesota - which has an important and historic legacy of union organizing.
- There is no end to the shortcuts that big corporations use to make more money - which is why we're ready to end employer misclassification fraud that cheats workers out of pay and benefits they have earned.
- We will create good paying jobs, make Minnesotans safer, and ensure local economies are stronger by **fixing our roads and bridges**, water infrastructure and public buildings every year. To continue to be a leader on climate and clean energy jobs, we will work to ensure Minnesotans have energy-efficient homes and buildings, and access to clean vehicles. We will ensure Minnesotans have safe and clean drinking water and reduce health disparities by replacing lead water pipes.
- Every session since we passed the historic Paid Family and Medical Leave and Earned Safe and Sick Time programs, Republicans have tried to take them away from Minnesotans. We'll protect the gains we've made for working people and ensure that when you have a new baby or sick loved one, you don't have to choose between the money you have to live or spending time with them.





A Responsible State Budget, Where You Get More For Your Tax Dollars:

Due to the Republicans' failed "trickle-down" theory, more of the burden of funding things we need has shifted to the people in need. The ultra-wealthy and the largest corporations get tax cut after tax cut while the rest of us struggle with higher property taxes to make up the difference to fund health care, disability services, schools, infrastructure, and more. A responsible state budget is stable, lends itself to a strong economy, and creates a system where we can fund essentials and everyone can thrive.

- We're ready to close tax loopholes that the ultra-wealthy and corporations exploit with high-paid tax experts to avoid paying into the systems they're benefitting from. No matter who you are in America, you need safe roads and bridges, clean drinking water, a strong and educated workforce, and services that keep society going.
- Those with the most should contribute more for our public goods and services. In the wealthiest country in the world, we can meet our collective needs - the big things we want to do for healthcare, housing, child care, and more - when people pay their fair share.
- We're furious about fraud, and committed to preventing it while holding criminals who have stolen from our state accountable. With Sen. Klobuchar's help, we'll continue to pass legislation that makes government more efficient, with the needed staff for oversight, and closes potential vulnerabilities in our systems so that Minnesotans fairly get the services they need.

Hold Huge Corporations Accountable, Support Main Street:

It's clear the ultra-rich and well-connected play by a different set of rules than the rest of us. It is harder than ever to build up a small business and thrive across the state, while huge corporations rig markets, avoid taxes, and exploit workers and local communities. That's why we want common-sense, reasonable regulation on these large corporations, while supporting people and their small businesses to get ahead.

- Our tax code has not kept up with the explosion of AI, Big Tech, and Data Mining practices as we've moved to a more online society. Whenever people are making money off of tracking you, your data, and your habits, they should be paying into things you need.
- We'll ensure our water, air, and land are clean for future generations by holding polluting corporations accountable.
- *It should be easier to open and keep open main street businesses in our communities*, without being pushed out of the economy by the largest, most monopolistic corporations. Thriving local communities have thriving, family-owned small businesses, and we're committed to resetting our system to help them out more, while removing unfair tax breaks and needless incentives for huge corporations.



Photo by Izzy Wagner/Minnesota Reformer

