

Election Update August 2022



2023 Legislature

Minnesota has one of the only divided legislatures in the country – will that remain the case in 2023? With more Republican and Democrat candidates from the extremes of the political spectrum, razor thin margins in both the House and Senate, hot-button issues front and center in the debates, and approval rates at an all-time low for the Democrats nationally, it's shaping up to be a very interesting election.

Minnesota is one of the few truly “purple” states when it comes to control of the state legislature and statewide offices. The August 9th primary results did not provide any strong indications as to which party will be in control of the legislature after the 2022 general election in November. The gubernatorial race is neck-and-neck with most poll results within the margin of error. Depending on who wins these races, the priorities of the legislature and Governor, and the ability to work with legislators and agencies, could shift.

The pre-primary financial reports reveal possible momentum for the campaigns as we move into the general election cycle.



Fundraising Highlights *Pre – primary*

Governor/Lt. Governor

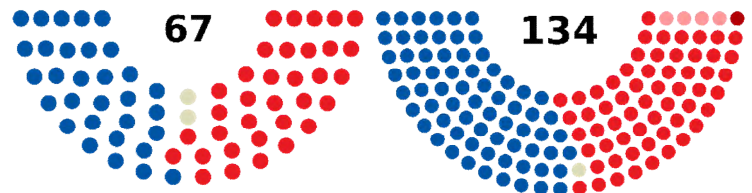
Walz/Flanagan vs. Jensen/Birk

- According to pre-primary financial reports, incumbent Walz has almost \$5M on hand, with over \$6M total raised, while challenger Jensen has just \$580K on hand, with over \$2M total raised.
- Walz has reportedly purchased large blocks of ad time already – something Jensen won't be able to match at this point. Expect independent expenditures (“IE”) to play heavily in this race.

Legislative Caucuses

The House DFL caucus has \$2.3M to defend their majority, while the House GOP has \$790K. Conversely, the Senate GOP has \$1.8M to defend their majority, where the Senate DFL has \$989K.

- There are primary challenges in 19 of the 134 House districts, and 25 of the 67 Senate districts.



IE: What's That?

A political communication made not in cooperation, consultation or in concert with a particular candidate or issue.

Independent Expenditures in 2018

IEs spent over \$33B to influence Minnesota's election outcomes in 2018. That's over 55% of the total money spent. Of that \$33B+, over \$18B was spent on the Governor's race. With strict spending limits for campaigns and the great number of toss-up races in our state this year, we expect to see even greater spending from IEs on both sides of the aisle.

State Legislature Key Primary Results



SD 5 GOP

Paul Utke – 57.33%
Bret Bussman – 32.34%
Dale Anderson – 10.34%

SD 9 GOP

Jordan Rasmusson – 51.59%
Nathan Miller – 48.41%

SD10 GOP

Nathan Wesenberg – 36.81%
Steve Wenzel – 32.46%
Jim Newberger – 30.73%

SD 41 GOP

Tom Dippel – 60.94%
Tony Jurgens – 39.06%

SD 54 GOP

Eric Pratt – 53.70%
Natalie Barnes – 46.30%

SD 54A GOP

Erik Mortensen – 55.00%
Bob Loonan – 45.00%

SD 56 DFL

Erin Maye Quade – 64.61%
Justin Emmerich – 35.39%

SD 62 DFL

Omar Fateh – 60.65%
Shaun Laden – 39.35%

SD 65 DFL

Sandy Pappas – 65.56%
Sheigh Freeberg – 22.64%
Zuki Ellis – 11.81%

SD 50B DFL

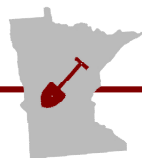
Steve Elkins – 61.09%
Andrew Carlson – 38.91%

SD 52A DFL

Liz Reyer – 60.86%
Sandy Masin – 39.14%

SD 67A DFL

Liz Lee – 88.93%
John Thompson – 11.07%



Special Session?

Despite the threat of losing out on billions of potential federal dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (requiring the state to match a certain percentage of the funds), the chances of a special session are almost non-existent. Republicans got a lot of what they wanted and, despite pressure, they didn't think spending more would help them. The Democrats were not willing to give more to the republicans or to compromise their own priorities. The stalemate has led advocates from a wide variety of groups to call for a special session to pass a bonding bill and matching funds, but unless something changes after the primary election, those calls are likely to go unanswered.

