

# Primary Election Update August 2024



## What's at stake in the primaries?

In 2023, Minnesota Democrats held the first trifecta since 2014 – will that remain the case in 2025? Despite the majority of the Minnesota Senate not being on the ballot this year, both chambers are up for grabs due to a resignation in the Senate and the normal two year election cycle of the Minnesota House. Minnesota is one of a few “purple” states with regards to control of the state legislature. The primary held on August 13<sup>th</sup> may be an indicator of voter turnout and who will control the legislature after the general election in November.

In late July, President Biden dropped out of the race, and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for the job. In August, Vice President Harris brought Gov. Tim Walz onto the ticket as her Vice President selection. We provide some perspectives on this below.



### Walz: The Minnesota Perspective

*Our team has six years of experience with Governor Walz.  
Here is a little “on the ground” perspective.*



#### Democrat View

Walz sticks up for marginalized communities, advocates for reproductive care options, and has signed a host of other progressive issues into law. He sticks up for Minnesotans and policies that will help families, at times to the ire of some in the business community. He knows how to thread the needle of being both progressive and pragmatic, having had to work with a divided legislature for four years. Walz's background – being raised on a farm, coaching football in a rural college town, and representing a district in Congress that values agriculture, hunting, and fishing – helps his appeal to moderates. The last election saw the democrats win a trifecta with both the senate and house controlled by the democrats. Bolstered by a progressive legislature, Walz has made Minnesota a model of how to effectively pass democratic policy priorities. In the upcoming election, his presence on the ticket will boost voter turnout of democrats as his efforts have been highly effective at passing landmark legislation that is popular in the state.

#### Republican View

After campaigning for his first term as a moderate, Walz surrounded himself with the left flank of his party. That insulation prevented any real negotiation with republicans and, at times, even moderate democrats. Despite listening to outside perspectives, he rarely changes course. After enacting (and repeatedly reenacting) one of the most severe covid lockdowns, he denied claims of mounting negative consequences instead of looking at compromise. When asked about the business climate, he replies that Minnesota is a great place to do business, but piles on mandates such as safe and sick time and minimum wage increases. Walz will now face nationwide media scrutiny – something Minnesota ‘nice’ journalists have rarely done. His track record as one of the most progressive governors on fiscal and social issues may be too much for some moderate voters. Republicans in Minnesota do not understand why Walz was the best choice for an already progressive ticket.



## State Legislature Key Primaries

August 13, 2024 Results

*(i) – Incumbent*

### HD 6B GOP

Josh Heintzeman (i) – 91.04%  
Matthew Zinda – 8.96%

### HD 7B GOP

Matt Matasich – 15.78%  
Cal Warwas – 84.22%

### HD 9A GOP

Jeff Backer (i) – 65.69%  
Boone Carlson – 34.31%

### HD 10A GOP

Ron Kresha (i) – 50.38%  
Diane Webb-Skillings – 49.62%

### HD 17A GOP

Dawn Gillman (i) – 84.02%  
Wayne Olson – 15.98%

### HD 19B GOP

Michael Ditlevson – 33.46%  
Thomas Sexton – 66.54%

### HD 26A GOP

James Doerr – 13.31%  
Aaron Repinski – 86.69%

### HD 26B GOP

Greg Davids (i) – 52.73%  
Gary Steuart – 47.27%

### HD 28A GOP

Brian Johnson (i) – 34.01%  
James Gordon – 65.99%

### HD 41A GOP

Wayne Johnson – 53.52%  
Grayson McNew – 46.48%

### SD 45 DFL

Kyle Meinen – 2.36%  
Emily Reitan – 38.72%  
Ann Johnson Stewart – 58.92%

### HD 8A DFL

Jordan Johnson – 17.24%  
Peter Johnson – 82.76%

### HD 26A DFL

Sarah Kruger – 51.97%  
Dwayne Voegeli – 48.03%

### HD 36B DFL

Brion Curran (i) – 62.59%  
TJ Malaskee – 37.41%

### HD 38A DFL

Huldah Hiltzley – 51.28%  
Wynfred Russell – 48.72%

### HD 49A DFL

Kissy Coakley – 25.13%  
Alex Falconer – 74.87%

### HD 61A DFL

Katie Jones – 43.15%  
Isabel Rolfes – 20.42%  
Will Stancil – 36.43%

## Current Legislative Makeup

MN Senate  
33 DFL – 33 GOP – 1 Vacancy

MN House

The Minnesota Senate is has the potential to flip majorities because of the vacancy of Sen. Kelly Morrison's seat as she runs for Congress. The Special Election will be held on General Election day.

The Minnesota House is all up for grabs, as it is every two years. According to the Campaign Finance Board, the House DFL caucus has \$1.1M on hand to defend their majority, while the House minority has \$787K in the bank.

