

Quick Analysis

Following the August 11, 2026 primary, Minnesota voters will see an historic ballot for the general election on November 3rd. For the first time in Minnesota's history four women will be competing for two of the highest offices in the state.

In the governor's race, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar will face off against MN House Speaker Lisa Demuth, who beat Trump-endorsed Mike Lindell in the primary. This marks the first time Minnesota will see two women compete for the job of Governor. The U.S. Senate race to replace Tina Smith will be Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan against Michelle Tafoya for the seat. Tafoya and Demuth both won their primaries against GOP endorsed.

Only two GOP endorsed candidates will be on the ballot for state-wide offices; Ronald Schutz running for Attorney General against current AG Kieth Ellison, and Tad Jude will compete against current Secretary of State Steve Simon for the office. DFL endorsed Zack Filipovich will face former Governor Candidate Scott Jensen in the auditors race.

Federal Update: US Senate & Congressional District 2

The Minnesota primary continued the national trend of progressive candidates winning Democratic nominations. In the competitive federal races, the more progressive Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan won against moderate US Rep. Angie Craig. In the Second Congressional District, progressive former State Sen. Matt Little won against more moderate candidates State Rep. Kaela Berg and State Sen. Matt Klein.

Over on the Republican side, former NFL sideline reporter Michelle Tafoya won handily against GOP endorsed Adam Schwarze and Royce White. Tafoya was considered the more moderate candidate in that race.

Overall, the political trend leftward was clear on both sides of the ballot, as Republican Minnesotans seem to be rejecting Trump endorsed candidates in favor of moderates, and DFLers continue to show a strong desire for a more progressive style of candidate that will stand up to the Trump administration.

Turnout for both sides of the ballot was high, with nearly 700,000 votes cast in the DFL Senate race, and nearly 400,000 votes cast in the GOP Senate race. The combined vote count is approximately a quarter of eligible voters, matching the trend of high turnout in Minnesota.



State House Results

Minnesota House incumbents performed strongly in the state primary, prevailing in all six districts where they faced challenges.

Republicans Josh Heintzeman (6B), Tom Murphy (9B), Dave Baker (16B), and Dawn Gillman (17A), along with DFLers Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley (38A) and Mohamud Noor (60B), each won and most by wide margins.

The results suggest that, despite the typical midterm voter frustration often directed at incumbents, sitting House members may be entering the general election from a position of strength.

Fast Facts

- 1.1 million ballots cast in the August 11, 2026 primary - a new state record.
- 43 of the 201 state legislative seats vacated by retiring members or members seeking other offices.
- Over 200,000 voters had already cast their ballots before primary election day. Also a new state record.

State Senate Results

Of the 15 Minnesota State Senate primaries, six featured incumbent senators facing primary challengers: Senators Paul Utke (R-5), Nathan Wesenberg (R-10), John Jasinski (R-19), Susan Pha (DFL-38), Ron Latz (DFL-46), and Omar Fateh (DFL-62).

Of these six incumbents, only Senator Paul Utke lost his primary. State Representative Mike Wiener bested Senator Utke by fewer than 200 votes. Wiener had received the Republican party endorsement.

On the DFL side, Senator Ron Latz (DFL – 46) faced a primary challenge from former St. Louis Park City Council member Lynette Dumalag. Dumalag was endorsed by both House members representing Senate District 46, making the race more competitive than many of the other state Senate primaries. Latz won handily with 59% of the vote.

Seven current House members will advance to the general election with hopes of winning seats in the Minnesota Senate. They are Mike Wiener (R-5), Steven Jacob (R-20), Liz Reyer (DFL-52), Tom Dippel (R-41), Bernie Perryman (R-14), Mike Freiberg (DFL-43), and Ben Bakeberg (R-54).

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