

Minnesota did well in the 2004 elections. Despite the disappointing results nationally, we showed that Minnesotans believe in doing things better.

In Minneapolis, even in the face of a hostile President and Governor, we can take concrete steps toward a progressive agenda to improve our communities.

These are some suggestions for improving our city. As you talk to candidates who are asking for your support, ask them specific questions about how they will create good jobs and strengthen our communities.

A Local Agenda for Good Jobs and Strong Communities



Minneapolis Central
Labor Union Council

This agenda supported by:

- Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council
- Minneapolis Federation of Teachers #59
- AFSCME Council 5
- Minnesota Teamsters DRIVE
- Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council
- SEIU MN State Council

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The City should promote the creation of GOOD jobs.

- The City should strengthen its living wage policy by closing the loopholes that let some developers slide by.
- When the city contracts out for services, service providers should not be paying poverty-level wages.
- Our tax dollars should only be invested in development projects that create living-wage jobs.
- Recipients of city subsidies and contracts should not be allowed to use our tax money to fight their employees' right to organize or collectively bargain.

Questions:

1. Do you support strengthening the city's living wage policy?
2. Should the creation of high quality jobs be a factor when deciding to use city resources to finance development or when contracting for services?
3. Should city contractors or recipients of tax subsidies be required to maintain neutrality if their workers want to join a union?

The City should invest in construction and infrastructure development that protects the environment.

- The City should play an active role in encouraging the expansion of our mass transit systems.
- Minneapolis should promote the construction and retrofitting of high-performance, energy efficient buildings, using "green" technology wherever possible.

Questions:

1. Will you actively work to expand upon our successful bus and LRT systems?
2. What can the city do to encourage energy efficiency and to reduce pollution?

The City's leaders need to actively partner with the Minneapolis Board of Education to maintain our first-class school system.

- Our quality of life in the City and the strength of our communities is tied directly to the welfare of our school system.

Questions:

1. How will you help the city schools continue to be the safest places in many children's lives?
2. How will you assist the school district in maintaining small class sizes?
3. How will you partner to increase early childhood education opportunities?

The City should promote a healthy workplace, by treating all employees with the respect & dignity they deserve.

- City and school district employees have the expertise and experience that make our city work. Their contributions to our city should be recognized and rewarded.

Questions:

1. Will you consult with front-line employees about ways to improve quality services in the city?
2. How will you ensure that staffing levels are adequate to provide public safety and other city services?

Save Hennepin County Medical Center, our last public hospital

- HCMC is the hospital of last resort for many Minneapolis residents who lack health insurance.
- Thanks to HCMC's excellent staff, the hospital routinely makes US News' list of top public hospitals.

Questions:

1. Do you believe that HCMC is valuable to Minneapolis as a public institution? What will you do to make sure it stays accountable to the public?

