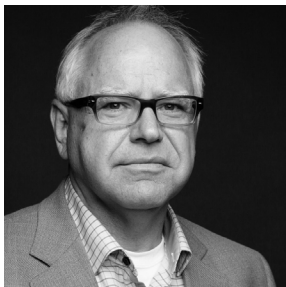


GOVERNOR



Tim Walz
DEMOCRAT



Jeff Johnson
REPUBLICAN

He does not support Trump and has criticized him during the campaign.

ON PRESIDENT TRUMP

After Trump became the Republican presidential nominee in 2016, Johnson supported Trump. He has sought the president's support in his campaign for governor.

Walz has taken money from the National Rifle Association in his congressional campaigns, but says he has donated that money to a charity for families of troops killed in combat. He supports an assault weapons ban in Minnesota, universal background checks and state-funded gun violence research. He opposes so-called stand your ground laws.

GUN CONTROL

His campaign website quotes the Second Amendment and says, "Self-defense is a fundamental individual right and creating new 'gun control' restrictions on law-abiding citizens will only leave guns in the hands of criminals."

Walz believes "a single-payer type system is on Minnesota's horizon." He supports expanding the state's public health care option for low-income people, MinnesotaCare, to all Minnesotans, if they choose to buy in.

HEALTH CARE

He's critical of the Affordable Care Act and calls MNsure a "complete disaster." Johnson wants Minnesota to abandon parts of the ACA under federal waivers and wants to create a system for buying insurance across state lines as a means of boosting competition on the insurance market.

Walz, a former high school teacher, plans to "fully and equitably fund our schools and reject the budgetary gimmicks we've used in the past." He also supports universal pre-K and wants to "nix" voucher programs.

K-12 EDUCATION PRIORITIES

Johnson would "radically simplify the K-12 education funding formula, start to eliminate some of the state mandates on schools and teachers, and "do everything possible to allow real education choice for every parent in Minnesota." He also says he will take on "political indoctrination" of children in some public schools and pay teachers based on their performance.

Walz wants the state to cover [two years of tuition-free education](#) at Minnesota state schools for students whose families make less than \$125,000 per year. He also believes the state should “[incentivize college and career pathway](#) high schools where schools partner with higher education institutions to offer a 2 year degree upon completion of high school” and make career and technical schools more accessible.

HIGHER EDUCATION

He wants to [promote vocational](#) and trade schools. Johnson says on student loan debt, “one solution is to break the government’s near monopoly on student loans and empower the free-market” by allowing private investment options.

Walz believes local law enforcement [should not be tasked with enforcing federal immigration laws](#), a practice followed by so-called sanctuary jurisdictions. He also supports providing protection for [people brought to the U.S. without documentation as children](#).

IMMIGRATION

Johnson wants local law enforcement to be able to work with federal authorities on immigration enforcement and opposes “sanctuary” policies. He also says the federal refugee resettlement program has “[become very divisive and problematic](#)” for Minnesota and would seek an immediate halt to the program.

He says he “[believes in a woman’s right to choose](#)” and has a “[100% pro-choice voting record](#)” with Planned Parenthood.

ABORTION

He says he’s “[pro-Life and believes in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death](#).”

Walz said he would [support unions](#) and fully fund “[essentials](#)” including transportation, housing, water and broadband infrastructure.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

He says ending “over-regulation” would help the economy grow and pledges to [eliminate one regulation for everyone his administration would create](#).

He supports increasing Minnesota’s [renewable energy standard](#) so that at least half the state’s energy comes from renewable sources by 2030 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Johnson [believes climate change legislation is costly](#) and efforts to mitigate global warming would be ineffective. “We have to end that era of making decisions that hurt people because it makes politicians look good or feel good,” he said in a debate.

He says he would support the [Polymet](#) mining project moving through a review and permitting process, but [hasn’t thrown full support](#) behind the Twin Metals mining project, which is near the Boundary Waters.

COPPER-NICKEL MINING

He says he [would advocate](#) for copper-nickel mining projects in northern Minnesota.

2018 ELECTIONS

MINNESOTA VOTER GUIDE

Walz wants to [expand the Working Family Tax Credit](#) and other breaks for low- and middle-class people. He's pledging to increase the gas tax to cover fixes for the state's "[crumbling infrastructure](#)" and says he'd bring local government aid back to pre-Pawlenty administration levels.

TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Johnson wants "[across the board](#)" income tax cuts, to end automatic tax increases, eliminate the statewide business property tax and put a cap on property tax hikes. He also wants to audit every state program funded by taxpayers and create a program for giving tax surplus revenue back to taxpayers, rather than the government spending it.

Walz supports "[a taxation and regulation system for adult-use cannabis](#) in Minnesota. African Americans in Minnesota are negatively and disproportionately impacted by these laws."

MARIJUANA

Johnson [wouldn't support](#) legalized recreational marijuana.



Josh Welter
LIBERTARIAN



Chris Wright
GRASSROOTS-
LEGALIZE CANNABIS

Welter does not support Trump. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

ON PRESIDENT TRUMP

He does not appear to have a public stance on the president. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

He wants to maintain the current laws and focus on the issues of family breakdowns, mental health issues and some school policies on discipline.

GUN CONTROL

Wright supports putting an immediate temporary restraining order on people with a high chance to commit suicide purchasing a weapon.

Welter [would not support](#) any new fees or taxes to pay for health-related issues.

HEALTH CARE

He favors a [single-payer health care system](#) and wants Minnesota to opt out of MNsure and the Affordable Care Act in favor of a single-payer system. Wright is also critical of "[waste, fraud and abuse](#)" in health care.

Welter says the state [needs more teachers](#) and supports making it easier for people to become teachers.

**K-12 EDUCATION
PRIORITIES**

Wright says Minnesota’s education should be more like Finland’s, noting the country’s [higher education requirements for becoming a teacher and its free day care programs](#).

Welter does not appear to have a public stance on education policy. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

HIGHER EDUCATION

He says Minnesota “[can and should](#) provide a two-year tuition-free higher education which includes trade school.”

Welter says the U.S. should open its borders and allow more people to enter the country.

IMMIGRATION

Wright does not appear to have a public position on immigration. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

Welter does not appear to have a public position on abortion. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

ABORTION

He [supports abortion rights](#) and says “the decision to have an abortion should be strictly between a woman and her doctor.”

Welter wants to [cut state spending](#) by 10 percent per year over the four-year governor’s term and wants to eliminate the “Met Council and other wasteful and non-representative government entities.”

**JOBS AND
THE ECONOMY**

Wright, former owner of a Bloomington, Minn., computer shop, says “the evidence is absolutely clear that locally owned businesses and local self-reliance is [the ticket to prosperity in this country](#).”

Welter does not appear to have a public stance on climate change. (MPR News has reached out for comment and will update this post as the campaign responds.)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Wright wants Minnesota to have [no greenhouse gas emissions by 2050](#) and proposes a law saying “All new electrical power generation shall be renewable.”

Property rights [are his main concern](#) when it comes to mining projects, and that he’s concerned with a mine near the Boundary Waters.

**COPPER-NICKEL
MINING**

Wright says he [opposes copper-nickel mining](#), and is “not convinced” a mining operation won’t leave behind pollution in Minnesota.

Welter wants to [cut taxes and spending by 10 percent](#) each year of the four-year governor term, if elected. “Let’s stop asking what the government can do for us,” he [told WCCO](#).

**TAXES AND
GOVERNMENT
SPENDING**

Wright advocates for a “[Progressive Tax Policy](#) that reduces taxes for people with less ability to pay and shift taxes to those with the most ability to pay treats taxpayers fairly.”

Welter supports legal recreational marijuana.

MARIJUANA

[Wright supports legalization](#) of marijuana for recreational use. “Let’s abolish routine pre-employment drug testing; free all cannabis prisoners, including those on probation; and expunge all judicial, police and private computer records.”