

MN NOW Platform

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid green horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several thin, parallel white lines that create a stepped or layered effect, extending further to the right.

Who is MN NOW?

Minnesota Now is a part of the National Organization for Women which was founded in 1966.

MN NOWs Purpose

To take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all people in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

Intersectional Focus

- Minnesota NOW is a multi-issue, grassroots organization that's been fighting for equality and justice since 1971.
- To fight for gender equity means embracing an intersectional focus. MN NOW fights to protect the rights of all women and this means we must explore how racial justice, LGBTQIA rights and economic justice intersect and how women from marginalized groups are impacted by inequities and violence.

MN NOW Core Issues

- Racial Justice
- LGBTQIA Rights
- Economic Justice
- Reproductive Rights
- Constitutional Equality
- Ending Violence Against Women

Racial Justice/Eliminating Racism

A leader in civil rights since 1966, NOW continues to fight for equal opportunities for women of color in all areas including employment, education & healthcare.

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Understand how racial disparities impact employment, wealth, incarceration and housing. Candidates must be able to articulate a plan to address the following:

- An end to racial profiling by law enforcement officials.
- Policy which addresses MN extreme racial disparities.
- An end to the criminalization of undocumented immigrants.
- Addressing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous and black women.
- Streamlined pathways to citizenship.

LGBTQIA+ Rights

MN NOW opposes discrimination against individuals based on gender, sex, sexual identity.

We identify trans women as women and welcome all trans individuals, queer, nonbinary and intersex individuals as a part of our community.

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Understand how sex, gender and gender identity operate and support an individuals right to legally align with their gender identity.

- Legal marriage and immigration practices for same-sex, non-binary and transgender couples.
- Banning conversion therapy.
- An end to discrimination based on gender identity in all public institutions.

Economic Justice

MN NOW fights for economic justice, which encompasses many concerns including education, livable wages, job discrimination, pay equity, housing, childcare, retirement security, and more.

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Understand the structural issues around economic justice and be able to articulate policies focused on alleviating poverty and increasing opportunities for single parents and their families.

- Affirmative action.
- An end to five-year lifetime limits to receive household benefits.
- An end to welfare work requirements.
- Equal pay for equal work regardless of job title.
- Equal access to well-paying jobs.
- Paid family leave of at least 12 weeks.
- Social Security credit for time spent caregiving.
- Policies to reduce homelessness.

Reproductive Rights

MN NOW fights for reproductive rights, including abortion rights, which are a part of healthcare. Government should have no role in individual healthcare decisions.

When a woman has made the healthcare decision to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, legal and locally available.

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Commit to repeal of all laws that limit women's access to abortion services, including mandatory waiting periods, parental notification, and mandating the use of non-scientific, information.

- Safe, affordable and locally available access to abortion.
- Readily accessible reproductive services including contraception.
- An end to discriminating business practices which restrict access to reproductive care.
- Supporting comprehensive K-12 age-appropriate sex education.
- Safe self-managed home abortions.

Constitutional Equality

MN NOW fights for equality and supports the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

“All persons shall be guaranteed equal rights under the laws of this state. The state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including pregnancy, gender, and sexual orientation.”

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Commit to supporting an Equal Rights Amendment to both the Minnesota and US Constitutions.

- Adding a state version of the ERA to the MN Constitution.
- Adding an ERA Amendment to the US Constitution.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the US Senate.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the US Senate.

Freedom From Violence

MN NOW fights to end violence against all people. As human beings, we all deserve freedom from violence.

Statistically, women and individuals from marginalized groups are especially vulnerable to instances of domestic abuse, sexual assault, sex trafficking, street harassment, and stalking.

To Be Considered for Endorsement a Candidate - Regardless of Position Running for - Must:

Articulate policies you support to end violence against women, which includes but is not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, modern slavery, honor killings, hate crimes, and murder. MN NOW platform includes the following:

- Anti-bullying legislation.
- Safe, supportive learning environments.
- Funding for battered women's services.
- Public awareness programs designed to end the silence surrounding domestic violence.
- Ending court action which punishes the victim and criminalizes trauma.
- Ending access to assault rifles and large capacity magazine rounds.
- Violence prevention programs in public schools.
- A ban on assault weapons and high capacity rounds.

MN NOW Also Supports

Healthcare which is affordable and accessible to all, specifically **universal single-payer health care**. Including a robust **mental health care system**.

Equity for individuals with disabilities and systems which are accessible, including a **person-centered approach to care**.

Environmental equity which is sustainable and **investing in a green economy, including but not limited to zero carbon policies and green development**.

MN NOW Endorsement Process

Candidates who have already received a MN NOW endorsement and whose position has not changed, can email PAC@MNNOW.org.

New Candidates will go through the endorsement process:

- Complete the online or PDF application found at www.MNNOW.org
- Applications are reviewed at least once a month using an A-F rating system which is provided on our website.
- If clarifications are needed, the PAC will reach out by email before rating.
- The final decision will be communicated by email and posted on our website.

MNNOW reserves the right to endorse multiple candidates in the same race.

We look forward to working with you.

Thank you for running!