

Minnesota Senate District 59 DFL  
2011 Senate Special Election Candidate Forum  
November 30, 2011 Sheridan School, Minneapolis • 6:30PM – 9:00PM  
Live Streamed by The UpTake

## Ground Rules

The Special Election Candidate Forum is intended to be an educational, informative and empowering event for the constituents of MN Senate District 59 and a venue from which the DFL candidates may speak to the community on a variety of priority issues. Equally important is to hold this event in the most fair, impartial, objective and community service manner possible.

Each DFL candidate is invited to participate in this Forum that will be live streamed (and available for online on-demand viewing) for maximum accessibility and reach. To help make the Forum successful, offer a level playing field to candidates while also being of maximum benefit to the public, the following rules have been carefully set up. We expect the full cooperation of and adherence to these rules by each candidate, their campaigns and the supporters who may or may not be affiliated with each campaign. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated in order to mount a successful event and to create a model from which others may learn and emulate in the future.

### **General**

- Candidate or campaign signage will not be permitted on or inside the school premises or on adjacent public property
- Candidate or campaign literature distribution will not be permitted on or inside the premises
- Candidate or campaign stickers will not be permitted on or inside the premises
- Distribution of candidate or campaign buttons, shirts or other materials will not be permitted on or inside the premises
- Demonstrations and other visibility on behalf of a candidate are not permitted on the premises
- The candidate's written message will be limited to one full page in the Forum Program
- Auditory shows of support or sentiment such as clapping, whistling, verbal comments or other public comment prior to, during and following the Forum on the premises will not be permitted
- Cell phones and other electronic devices will be muted so as not to disturb the Forum or its taping/streaming.
- Media or other candidate interviews will only be permitted after the Forum; a Media Room has been set up adjacent to the Auditorium for that purpose
- Still photographs will be permitted before and during the forum as long as they do not interrupt or disturb the flow of the event
- Tapping into the venue sound system or capturing audio or video of the event by campaigns or others not pre authorized to do so is not permitted
- Decisions regarding any additional situations that may arise not covered by these rules will be at the discretion of the Event Coordinator or Senate District Chair
- All additional school rules apply including food and beverages being consumed as posted

## Format

- All questions will be posed to all candidates
- Candidates will respond in an alternating order as determined by the Moderator
- Candidates will have 1.5 minutes for an Opening Statement; 1.5 minutes to respond to each question; and a 1/5 minute Closing Statement as per the forum Agenda
- Candidates are not permitted to address other candidates but are permitted to ask the Moderator to repeat the question or for additional clarity about the question
- The Moderator will conduct the Forum and be in charge of the candidate portion upon her/his introduction
- An official Time Keeper will keep the official time and work with the Moderator to keep the event progressing and fair
- Candidates will respond within the time allocated and cease when prompted to by the time keeping device or Moderator
- If there is extra time remaining at the end of the forum not previously allocated, it will be used toward additional Questions & Answer time
- Following general introductions, explanation of ground rules and format, the Event Program, and candidate opening statements, a series of panelist questions will be asked of candidates followed by audience questions; all audience questions will be written on cards, delivered to the stage where two impartial volunteers will vet the questions for the Moderator; spontaneous audience questions or comments will not be permitted
- The substance of questions and the identity of panelists will remain private until the event commences
- The DFL candidates who remain on the Special Election ballot and continue to actively campaign are the only individuals permitted to participate on stage on behalf of their candidacy; no surrogates will be permitted to speak on behalf of a candidate during all or part of the Forum
- No other individuals may address the audience other than the event organizers, moderator, panelists, and candidates involved

## For Candidates Only

I agree to adhere to the above rules and format of the Minnesota Senate District 59 DFL 2011 Senate Special Election Candidate Forum and pledge my full cooperation toward the adherence of these rules by myself, all of my campaign members and my supporters to the best of my ability. I also pledge to provide the most informative responses possible while doing my best to maintain a positive demeanor by myself and by my campaign in the best traditions of the Minnesota DFL.

**Please sign, date and electronically return this document to:  
Harrison Nelson, MN SD 59 Chair at: [chair@sd-59.org](mailto:chair@sd-59.org)**

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Candidate Signature

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Date

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Campaign Manager Signature

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Date