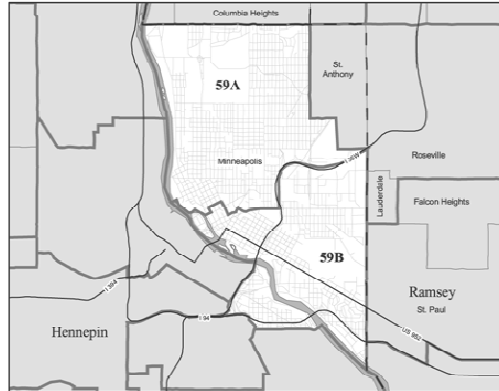


# 2011 Senate Special Election Candidate Forum November 30, 2011 • 6:30PM – 9:00PM

Sheridan Arts Magnet School Auditorium  
1201 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Streamed Live via  
The UpTake  
<http://www.theuptake.org>



View Candidate  
Questionnaires  
<http://sd-59.org>



## CANDIDATE FORUM AGENDA

Welcome Explanation of Intro Ground Rules • Moderator Introduction	10 Min.
Candidate Opening Statements	1.5 Min. per Candidate
Candidate Questions #1-6 (Issues Expert Questions via Moderator)	1.5 Min. per Candidate
Candidate Questions #1-5 (Audience Questions Vetted by Two Volunteers)	1.5 Min. per Candidate
Moderator Questions #1-2	1.5 Min. per Candidate
Candidate Closing Statements	1.5 Min. per Candidate
Moderator Wrap-up	04 Min.
Senate District 59 DFL Chair Wrap-up	02 Min.

**Hosted by: Minnesota Senate District 59 DFL**

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

## **Minnesota Senate District 59 DFL 2011 Senate Special Election Candidate Questionnaire**

The following is an informational Questionnaire for all candidates actively campaigning for the MN Senate District 59 DFL Special Primary Election to complete. Candidates have been asked to complete the Questionnaire and to submit their responses in electronic form to be posted online. The SD 59 DFL will post the full text (verbatim) of each Candidate Questionnaire online for public review prior to the November 30, 2011 Candidate Forum.

The SD 59 DFL is announcing the Questionnaire questions in advance of the Candidate Forum in order to give the public a sense of what questions candidates will already be addressing (prior to the Candidate Forum) to help attendees narrow the questions they may wish to ask at the Forum. Thank you for your cooperation in a full effort to educate, inform and empower Senate District 59 voters.

Please check the Senate District 59 DFL web site for these questions, the candidate's responses, Forum details and other important information at: <http://www.sd-59.org>  
Also, the Candidate Forum will be streamed live by The UpTake at: <http://www.theuptake.org> and available for online on-demand viewing in an additional effort to educate and inform the public.

### **Legislative Priorities**

1) Which three committee assignments would you request? Why would you request these three?

### **Taxes and Budget**

1) If you had revenues of \$100 (to symbolize the state's budget revenues) how would you allocate those revenues according to your priorities and your understanding of the budget and public priorities (so those priorities add up to \$100)?

2) What is your position on tax policy? What are the relationships between income tax, sales tax, property tax, user fees and other surcharges? If you had to raise revenues how would you do that?

### **Education**

1) What are your priorities for early education, special education, K-12 education and higher education? How would you fund them?

2) What are your views on investing in early childhood education? How would you pay for those? How would you prioritize this with other educational spending?

3) The costs of higher education continue to escalate while the resources available to most MN students and families decrease. How do you plan to address the rising cost of higher education with continuing decreases in financial resources especially in a very stressed economy?

### **Social Justice and Equity**

1) What is your position on the extension of basic family protections such as health insurance, pension benefits, sick and bereavement pay to unmarried partners and non-biological children of governmental/public employees as currently afforded married heterosexuals?

2) What is your position on the use of Photo ID as a requirement for voting? What changes (if any) would you propose to improve voter participation, and election fairness, efficiency and accuracy?

## **Health Care**

- 1) Given that many Minnesotans are without any health care coverage, are underinsured, cannot receive coverage for specific health conditions, or cannot access the proper medications, how would you increase the number of Minnesotans covered and the quality of their coverage? What else would you do to improve the current health insurance climate? How would you pay for that?
- 2) What would you do to improve the health and living conditions of the elderly, young children and others at risk? How would you pay for that?
- 3) What would you do to address the critical problem of access to health insurance for small and microbusinesses?

## **Economy/Jobs/Small Business**

- 1) What are the largest hurdles to the greater success of small and microbusiness? How would you lower those hurdles and minimize the barriers to their economic improvement?
- 2) In the context of *job creation*, where are nearly all U.S. jobs (since 2002) being created?
- 3) What is Minnesota's role in the global economy? What would you propose to support your position and serve the best interests of the Minnesota economy and Minnesotans?

## **Public Safety and Crime Prevention**

- 1) What is your position on the availability of guns and particularly handguns? What is your position on the use of background checks prior to the purchase of firearms? Do you support periodic checks of current license holders?
- 2) What specific legislation would you propose to reduce crime? What types of legislation would you propose to aid in the prevention of crime?
- 3) What is your position regarding Second Chance programs and opportunities for ex-offenders to reenter the community while balancing those initiatives with public safety and media influences?

## **Environmental Safety/Energy Policy**

- 1) How would you balance the interests of citizens and the environmental community with the interests of industry, finance and the business community?
- 2) What is your position on energy, the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, and Minnesota's role in this arena? What key resources does Minnesota have to make good progress?
- 3) What policies or programs would you support in the areas of state building code compliance with clean energy technology, improved energy efficiency and increased noise protection?

## **Transportation**

- 1) What are your Minnesota transportation priorities as they relate to business, freight, travelers, and public transit including commuters, seniors, people with disabilities, young people, and visitors?
- 2) What is your position on light rail transit? How would you play for light rail transit expansion if you feel it's needed?

## **Your Candidacy**

Explain why you are seeking the office of Minnesota State Senator. What will you bring to your constituents? What experiences, expertise and skill sets do you have that make you best suited to hold this position? What specific expertise will you bring to the State Senate that is unique or rare to the body?



**"Energy, talent, and conviction...  
She will make us all proud."**

**—Liz Wielinski, Minneapolis Park Board**

# **Kari Dziedzic for State Senate**

**WomenWinning and Labor Endorsed  
Visit [www.kariforsenate.com](http://www.kariforsenate.com).**

Prepared and paid for by Kari Dziedzic for Senate, 514 Third Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 | 612-623-7785 | @kari4senate

**Vote for Jacob Frey on December 6th**



Paid for and authorized by Jacob Frey for Senate Committee, 316 E. Hennepin #300 Minneapolis, MN 55414

**[www.jacobfreyforsenate.com](http://www.jacobfreyforsenate.com)**

*“With the courage of our convictions  
and the passion for what’s right, we can  
lend a voice - and a hand - to the  
people who need us most”*

*Jacob Frey*



Special Election  
**Make History**  
 December 6

Mohamud **Noor**  
 for **State Senate** 59

Proud Democrat • Union Endorsed

Endorsed by  
**Minneapolis Federation of Teachers • Stonewall DFL • MAPE**

**“My name is Mohamud Noor.** Twelve years ago, I immigrated to Minneapolis. I earned a college degree in computer science while working in union jobs as a public employee. Today, I live in the Audubon Park neighborhood of Northeast Minneapolis with my wife and our three beautiful children. **We are proud Minneapolis Public Schools parents.”**

**“I came to Minneapolis so my kids, like me, could achieve the American Dream.** We owe it to our children to make sure they have the opportunity to succeed.”

**“I am running for State Senate because I believe we must close the opportunity gap, create jobs and improve our education system so it works for everyone. I am uniquely prepared to tackle these issues.”**

- I support Marriage Equality
- I believe everyone must pay their fair share, including the wealthy
- I oppose the stadium bailout for an out-of-state billionaire
- I believe in women's reproductive rights

- ✓ Mohamud is a long-time public employee and a card-carrying union member.
- ✓ Mohamud was an advisor to the Governor through the Council on Black Minnesotans. He also served on the Board of Governors of the Children’s Theatre Company.
- ✓ Mohamud oversaw Minnesota’s implementation of early Medicaid expansion as a systems administrator for the state’s Department of Human Services.
- ✓ Mohamud managed eligibility systems at Hennepin County’s Families Division for programs such as food supports, health care, housing and child care assistance.

**(612) 250-9660 ■ mohamudnoor@gmail.com ■ www.noorforsenate.org**

PAUL OSTROW FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 59

**Candidate Background:**

Community volunteer on the eastside for 23 years

Prosecutor focusing on domestic violence and livability offense for 15 years

City Council Member, Ward One, 1998 to 2009

Council President, 2001-2005, Chair Ways and Means/Budget 2006-2009

**Personal:**

Married to Julie Mattson Ostrow 23 years

Two children, Matt 20 and Emily 16

Graduated St. Olaf College, B.S. magna cum laude 1980

Graduated University of Minnesota Law School, J.D, cum laude 1983

**Campaign Information**

Priorities: Reawakening Our Democracy, A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education for our Kids and Making Minnesota Great Again.

Website: [ostrowforsenate.com](http://ostrowforsenate.com)

Facebook Page: Ostrow for Senate

Go online to the link on our website to sign the Pledge to Restore Our Democracy

**Available on campaign website:**

An Agenda for our State

“Minneapolis Needs Financial Freedom” opinion in Star Tribune June 30, 2011

Statement on Minnesota Vikings Football Stadium

Responses to Candidate Screening Questionnaires

Statements of Support from: Artists for Ostrow, Students for Ostrow and Parents for Ostrow

Link to Campaign Finance Report filed on November 29, 2011

Making Government Work for People: a 12 year record of reform

# Peter Wagenius is committed...

## ...To Tax Fairness

- Our tax system is rigged against regular folks, and the wealthiest pay less and less. Peter will work for tax fairness.
- Property taxes are not based on ability to pay. They have the greatest impacts on seniors and others on fixed incomes. Peter has taken on powerful interests to fight property tax increases. He'll do the same at the Capitol.

## ...To Honest Budgets

- Peter managed the development and adoption of the Mayor's plan to pay down \$183 million in city debts, allowing for new funding for city streets and restoration of the City's credit rating.
- Peter led the City's efforts to reform the broken "closed" pension system. This historic agreement provides benefit increases to police and fire retirees AND prevented huge property tax increases in 2012 and beyond.



*Peter and his wife Mandy are restoring a 122 year-old house a few blocks from University Avenue. The porch is almost painted!*

**Peter Wagenius, 40**, has been active in public service and the community his entire life. He currently serves as Policy Director for Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, where he has worked since Mayor Rybak was elected in 2001. Before that Peter worked in the State Senate as a writer/researcher for five years. Peter also worked with children with learning disabilities and behavioral problems for two years.

Peter grew up in Minneapolis and is a proud graduate of Minneapolis Public Schools. He has lived in Senate District 59 for the past 14 years. Peter and his wife Mandy, a social worker, were married this past June at Saint Anthony Falls.

## ...To Public Safety

- When Governor Pawlenty slashed funding for local police, Peter worked hard with City Council Members to restore funding to add 71 police officers. We now have a historic reduction in crime.
- When the new Republican Legislature took away funding for over 40 Firefighters, Peter developed and pushed the plan to save 31 Firefighters. Then he worked with Council Members Kevin Reich and John Quincy to find the dollars to save 4 more. Together they reduced the number of layoffs down to 6.

## ...To Strong Schools

- Peter wants every child to have the same high quality Minneapolis Public School education that he had.
- Peter worked with children with severe behavioral problems to teach social skills and conflict resolution so they would avoid the path toward drugs and gangs.
- He will work tirelessly for early child care and optional all day kindergarten.
- Peter was the Mayor's lead on merging the City and County Library systems, which led to restored library hours and stable funding.
- He will work to build a coalition to restore funding for our schools and oppose "shifts" that rob our schools of the stability they need.



## ...To Expand our Transit and Bike Trail Systems so Minneapolis can grow into a sustainable city

- Peter has been the City's lead negotiator for the Central Corridor LRT line, helping keep the project on track and putting thousands to work.
- Peter took the lead in winning a million dollar competitive grant from the Obama Administration to plan transit improvements on Central Avenue through Northeast.
- Peter has been the Mayor's lead on building a record number of bike trails, leading to Minneapolis being named the #1 bike city in America.

## ... To Clean Water and Air to keep us healthy and to help keep Health Costs down

- Peter led City efforts and coordinated with a coalition of neighborhood and environmental groups to win conversion of the Riverside Coal Plant to cleaner natural gas. Minneapolis can breathe easier because of this work.
- Republicans in the Legislature are trying to block implementing President Obama's Affordable Care Act. Peter will strongly support Governor Dayton's collaboration with the President.

## ...To Higher Education and the Arts which grow our economy

- Having a strong University has created countless jobs in Minnesota and in our district. Peter will fight to keep the University strong.
- Drastic tuition increases are harming our future, because students can't keep taking on more debt. We must stop the Republican cuts to higher education.
- The arts are a huge part of our local economy. Peter knows the effect the arts have had on his life and will continue to support the local arts community.

## ...To Equal Rights for All Minnesotans

- Peter will campaign against the Republicans' proposed constitutional amendment that unfairly targets the GLBT community. The constitution is a sacred document. It must never be used to exploit fear or distract from Republicans' economic failures.
- We would never have built the great American middle class without Labor Unions having the right to organize. That right is under assault across the nation and next door in Wisconsin. Peter will strongly defend the right to organize in Minnesota.

**Peter Wagenius**  
for State Senate

[www.peterwagenius.org](http://www.peterwagenius.org)

612-799-5007

**VOTE**

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Save the Date:**  
**2012 DFL Caucuses are**  
**on Tuesday, 2/7/12**

**Save the Date:**  
**2012 SD59 DFL**  
**Convention is currently**  
**scheduled for Saturday,**  
**3/24/12**

To volunteer, contact  
[chair@sd-59.org](mailto:chair@sd-59.org)

Donate to SD59 DFL:  
We now accept donations  
via paypal.



Visit [sd-59.org](http://sd-59.org) for details.

Checks can be made payable to  
59th Senate District DFL  
PO Box 18597  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0597

Find Senate District 59 DFL  
On-Line:

Website: [sd-59.org](http://sd-59.org)



Facebook Group:  
[facebook.com/groups/sd59df/](http://facebook.com/groups/sd59df/)



Yahoo Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dfi-sd59/>

### Special Thanks

Senate District 59 DFL would like to say thank you to Senator Larry Pogemiller for his many years of service to our district and our state.

Additional thanks go to The Uptake for Live Streaming the Candidate Forum, Paradigm for providing CART/Captioning, and to Ron Wacks our Candidate Forum Coordinator.

## Senate District 59 Special Election Information for Voters:

**Primary** – Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011  
– Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm

**General Election** – Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012  
– Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm

**Primary Absentee Voting:** Monday through Friday Nov. 4 – Dec. 2 - 8 am to 4:30 pm, Sat. Dec. 3 - 10 am to 3 pm, and Mon. Dec. 5 – 8 am to 5 pm

**Absentee Voting Location:** The Minneapolis Elections Office is located in Minneapolis City Hall at 350 5<sup>th</sup> Street South room 1-B on the ground floor, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**Questions About Voting? Dial 311** weekdays -7 am to 7 pm. Outside the city limits or with a cell phone dial 612-673-3000. TTY/TTD 612-673-2157.

### Additional Resources:

**Polling Locations** are listed on the Minneapolis Elections Office Website:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/polling-place-list.asp>

**Voter Registration Lookup** is a tool will quickly tell voters if they are registered at their address:

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>

If not pre-registered, see **Election Day Registration Requirements:**  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/election-day-registration.asp>

**Absentee Ballot Lookup:** This secure service will inform voters of the status of their absentee ballot:

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>

### Assistance to Voters with Disabilities:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/voting-accessibility.asp>