

MN State House District 67A

* Asterisk signifies incumbent

1 of 5

- elected every 2 years
- works alongside Governor to create laws & establish state budget
- passes bills on public policy, sets levels for state spending, raises/lowers taxes, votes to uphold/override governor vetoes



aaopmn.org



John Thompson (DFL)

Ryan Martin (Legal Marijuana Now)

John Stromenger (Republican)

What policies will advocate for to address the rise in microaggressions and hate crimes against our Asian community?

As an activist and organizer working in a multiracial movement, there is no place for racism, xenophobia, and systems of oppression in our communities. As soon as the pandemic spread and we witnessed our Asian community get verbally and physically attacked with xenophobia and racism, I condemned this and worked alongside community leaders to push the dominant narrative that COVID-19 doesn't discriminate and that we need to work to protect each other. As a State Representative, I will work with fellow People of Color and Indigenous Caucus Members to ensure we have stronger legislation around reporting and prosecuting hate crimes against our Asian community so that we can better serve justice and ensure we're producing actual results that protect community members. I am also committed to securing more public dollars to fund and support anti-racism work done by our schools, organizations, and nonprofits so that we can transform our communities from the bottom up.

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) did not receive a response from the Ryan Martin campaign.

If you work with the Ryan Martin campaign and would like to provide answers, please email info@aaopmn.org.

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) did not receive a response from the John Stromenger campaign.

If you work with the John Stromenger campaign and would like to provide answers, please email info@aaopmn.org.

MN State House District 59B

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Many of our youth and young people have been left out of national conversations and financial help, even while continuing to work in essential jobs and balancing that work with their school and families. What are your plans to ensure that our youth and young people's voices are also incorporated within legislative decisions?

As a Black man who comes from a community that has been silenced and marginalized from the decision-making table for centuries and generations, I know one of the best ways to engage and include people from certain backgrounds to be decision makers and/or collaborators is by going to them and creating space for them to lead, strategize, and voice their opinion. These are the opportunities I wish I had as a youth. These are opportunities that my young children remind me about every day, especially as they witness their father running a grassroots campaign to champion equity across race, class, gender, and age at the Capitol. As a legislator, I am committed to regular meetings with youths and youth-based organizations, caucuses and groups to center the voices of young people at the Capitol.

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How will you address concerns raised by our youth and young people in regards to Governor Walz's fall semester school plans?

I look forward to having regular meetings with our youth and young people to listen, learn, and strategize as a collective about how we'll resolve concerns and/or make their ideas come into fruition. I would like to cogovern with them, legislators, partners, and allies to show up boldly with deep persistence in the Governor's office to push for schooling that meets the needs and expectations of our youth and young people.

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How will you ensure that our youth and young people also receive financial support during this time?

As a strong supporter of free college for all, canceling all student debt, and Medicare For All, I will always work in coalition with our youth and young people, allies, partners, and supporters to advocate for this at the state and national level. Amidst the pandemic, I'll push alongside students for more equitable tuition rates based on the new norms in education. I will also work collectively to push for financial institutions to stop enforcing payments on individuals as we continue to see a record high for unemployment, mental health crises, and more. I will also push for eviction moratoriums and legislation that allows for youth and young people to qualify for unemployment benefits and push for more financial packages that we can offer directly to youth and young people during this time.

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There are many small business owners, many of which are Asian-owned and have seen a decrease in business since COVID-19 due to xenophobia. What are your plans to ensure that our small businesses owners, especially our Asian-owned ones, continue to be safe during a pandemic while ensuring the longevity of their business?

I'm deeply disturbed and frustrated by the ways in which our government is led by elected officials who choose to back big money and corporations while leaving working class families, especially people of color, LGBTQ+, and women--all communities who are the backbone to our small business communities-- on the backburner. This needs to change. We all deserve a Capitol led by leaders who are grounded in a future where people are at the center of our government, not profit. As a legislator, as a working class person, as a Black man, I will partner with legislators, small business communities, and other stakeholders to ensure issues small business owners are facing are resolved and that our state is leading work to offer opportunities like grant dollars, equitable, low-interest financing options, and improvements to small business corridors so they can rebuild, grow, and thrive. I am committed to creating a space intentional to outreach to our Asian-owned small businesses.

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George Floyd's murder has pushed the world into more deep conversations around race and policing. One of the components of anti-racist work is in education, and in specifically ethnic studies. Ethnic studies provides students the opportunity to learn and reflect on their racial identity through a historical lens. Do you support mandated ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement?

Yes.

COVID-19 has shifted many polling places for this past Primary Election. Many organizations and individuals are advocating for absentee voting by mail as well. Absentee voting by mail can be confusing to many and even more so when you can't read or write English well. Many of our Asian community members may not have assistance or language skills to complete an absentee ballot by mail. How do you hope to shift access to the polls for all?

The gaps that we see in our electoral system are intentional, and it speaks directly to the ways in which our society was unjustly built to protect White Supremacy. I've spent my life working with organizers and activists to dismantle these systems of oppression. I'm running for State Representative to continue that work and more possible. I'd like to cogovern with organizations, like Asian American Organizing Project, Minnesota Voice, and American Civil Liberties Union, who are doing incredible work to push for robust, progressive laws that promote, protect, and guarantee voting for all. I'd like to work in coalition to defeat harmful, racist legislation & efforts meant to suppress voting, like laws requiring voter identification and intentional lack of funding for language assistance. I will partner with people, organizations, and legislators to push for legislation like absentee voting by mail for all, multilingual help lines for voters, increased visibility for multilingual voter education content on social media and other avenues of communication, and investing more dollars to hire multilingual, multiracial staff to support voters all across the state.

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