

\* Asterisk signifies incumbent

- elected on a 2-4-4 term basis
- 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

### D. Scott Dibble\* (DFL)

### Jennifer Zielinski (Republican)

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

I am very supportive of efforts currently underway to bolster investigations and enforcement by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights of hate crimes and other discriminatory behavior, whether illegal or not, directed against Asian people in Minnesota. I would support making this initiative permanent with supporting legislation and dedicated resources.

It is important to also continue and expand public education to replace and combat false information promulgated by public officials. In that same vein, I have added my voice and will continue to speak out and condemn these actions.

I would consider adding related categories in the Human Rights Act and our hate crimes laws to help protect against this kind of prejudiced actions.

Finally, everyone should have a full appreciation for the fullness of Minnesota's history, including the vital inclusion of those whose families originated in Asia, starting at a young age by including this knowledge in our history lessons.

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) was unable to find contact information for the Jennifer Zielinski campaign.

If you work with the Jennifer Zielinski campaign and would like to provide answers, please email [info@aaopmn.org](mailto:info@aaopmn.org).

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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 schooling and families. What are your plans to ensure that our youth and young people's voices are also incorporated within legislative decisions?

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

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

I will continue in my regular communications and meeting with young people connected to an array of organizations focused on civic participation and voting, education policy, climate and the environment, food security and economic security.

Many young people supplement their families' income with their jobs, so it stands to reason that unemployment benefits should be available to them as well. I will continue to support a strong state role in helping alleviate student tuition and student debt, whether through tax credits to help offset repayments, free college at certain public institutions, loan and tuition forgiveness programs – especially for those going into highly valued and much-needed professions such as teaching, greater support for the Minnesota Grant, free college entrance exams, free FAFSA applications, ease of access to information about post-secondary options.

I support enhancing programs from our state employment agency directed at supporting young people looking for jobs.

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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 was proud of Senator Fong Hawj in his unyielding insistence that a Minnesota small business support appropriation designed to help during the pandemic include a focus on minority and immigrant owned businesses and was even more proud to vote yes. I will continue to encourage my constituents to focus their purchasing on locally owned small businesses.

I will continue in my conversations with entrepreneurs in my district and other parts of the state about what their needs are and how state policies and resources can be shaped and targeted to be of greatest assistance. I'm hearing a lot about the high cost of health care (which would be remedied by a universal single payer system), missing out on the first rounds of the paycheck protection program, for those affected by civil unrest struggles with landlords, insurance companies, municipal regulations and a lack of public resources. I am dedicated to moving as many of these barriers as possible.

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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?

We are failing our young people if we are not informing them of the richness of cultures and communities that have always comprised our state. Further, just teaching "the facts" is inadequate. It is important to understand why and how decisions affecting people, especially those not a part of the majority, have been made, how that has affected them and their lives, and how that history is manifested in policies, institutions, culture, norms and practices today. Many of those dynamics create barriers to some being able to fully access all that they need to create successful lives.

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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?

Counties and cities must have sufficient resources so that early in-person voting and day-of voting can ensure that everyone has full access their sacred right to vote with all barriers addressed. It is also vital to allow family members or others to be able to assist those with English proficiency challenges and eliminate arbitrary limitations on the numbers any one person can assist.