

MN State Senate District 64



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1 of 6

- 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

Erin Murphy (DFL)

Patricia Jirovec McArdell (Legal Marijuana Now)

Sharon Anderson (Republican)

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

One thing that the legislature can and should do immediately is to expand the budget for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Their ability to investigate attacks and other incidents is directly curtailed by limited funding. In some areas, enforcement against discriminatory business practices is assigned to other departments. We should treat this work as a priority, not an afterthought.

In my current work, I have been pushing candidates for legislature across the state to adopt and use the race-class narrative when honing their message. That narrative and the research behind it is designed to fight back against the hateful, racist, divisive messages that seek to pit communities against one another.

Through my role as Executive Director of Our Stories, Our Health, I've also worked to provide a platform for good & accurate information about COVID-19. While that is not an

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP) did not receive a response from the Patricia Jirovec McArdell campaign.

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

No contact information found.

If you work with the campaign for Sharon Anderson, please email info@aaopmn.org to answer these questions.

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

antidote to racism, it is important to present an alternative to conspiracy theories and xenophobic rhetoric.

I believe that it is important for me to show up, and to do what I'm asked to support the Asian American community. Earlier this year, I was contacted and asked to put out a statement condemning these hateful attacks, and to push others to do so also. I did so, and will continue to show up, work in partnership, and listen to what I'm asked to do.

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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?

I believe in working together inside and outside of the Capitol. I welcome young leaders into the work we do in the Legislature. Of equal importance and value is joining together in community, to learn from each other and deepen relationships as the foundation of the work we will do together.

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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 am exceptionally concerned about the start of school and for the safety of all involved. I have engaged in one on one conversations with parents, students, educators, school staff, and administrators to understand the issues and tradeoffs and I have shared my perspectives with the Administration. There is no easy solution but with focus and clarity of purpose, I believe we can pursue the education of our children this year while protecting the safety of those involved.

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

The unemployment expansion is good, but it doesn't take care of anyone. People whose job loss isn't connected to COVID, or those who were already not working, are left out in the cold. I've been excited by the UBI program that Mayor Carter is developing here in Saint Paul, and looking forward to seeing how it develops.

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

We absolutely must continue the eviction moratorium, if not expand it by adding rules against predatory rent increases. We need to keep people in their homes.

While I support state level jobs programs, I am concerned about how we implement safely in the midst of a pandemic. We need to do what we can to make sure that people can stay home and stay safe.

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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?

Through the work I did with community leaders in my 2018 campaign, I got to meet so many Asian small business owners. I believe that it is important to stand in solidarity with them, and to use the platform I have to stand in solidarity and to push back against xenophobic messages.

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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? (Cont)

In general, I believe that healthcare is one of the biggest obstacles to the longterm success of small businesses. Too many business owners are left with the choice of paying for cost-prohibitive plans or to go without coverage, for themselves and their employees. Healthcare costs should not be a barrier to entrepreneurship, which is one reason I fight for universal healthcare.

After the first round of COVID-19 relief programs passed, many small business owners found that they could not access the resources offered by programs like the Payroll Protection program - that the money available was gobbled up by big companies that could afford to keep teams of accountants and lawyers on staff. Any program enacted in Minnesota should be accessible both to those who cannot afford to retain experts and to those who speak English as a second language.

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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?

I believe that loosening the restrictions around translating & witnessing absentee ballots was a good first step. This year even more than others, it is also important to expand the hours & locations of early vote centers. The hours of most centers are not accessible to people who work multiple jobs, work night shifts, who run a business with few employees, or who do not otherwise have flexibility between 9am - 5pm. And the main location in Saint Paul is at the Ramsey County building on Plato Blvd - it's a difficult spot to access by public transportation. From my experience, it is easier to provide support to voters - translation, taking the time to explain the process - at an early vote center than at the polls. If those centers are more embedded in communities, then it becomes much easier to provide support to voters.

My campaign is currently creating a series of graphics answering commonly asked questions about early voting, and are working to get those materials translated so that they are accessible.