

* 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

John Marty* (DFL)

Greg Copeland (Republican)

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

This is a serious (and unfortunately, a growing) problem. We need to continue working to address racism throughout society – especially, but not only, in policing and in our justice system. We need strong hate crimes laws. But most importantly we need to teach tolerance and concern for others. Our schools and educational system plays a big role in that, as does the news media. However, it also requires public officials to serve as a role model – President Trump is an illustration of the opposite of what we need.

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

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

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?

We need people of all ages involved. Young people have demonstrated their interest and ability to play an important role in society – their impact on changing the public conversation/debate on guns (after the Parkland shooting) and on climate change has been unmistakable. We all benefit by involving young people and taking their voices seriously.

Also, because of injustices in our economy young people are getting unfair treatment. Their financial debt from higher education is crushing, and their chances of getting good paying jobs are slim. They need and deserve a fair shake from society.

John Marty* (DFL)

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

There are no good solutions to education during the COVID crisis. I am concerned about in-person classes when there is widespread community infection in Minnesota, and remote learning denies students the chance to connect with peers and learn to live with healthy social interactions. I support leaving a lot of flexibility with local school boards to make these difficult decisions in consultation with teachers, parents, and students.

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

I support an economically just economy. That includes plans to end poverty (through higher minimum wages, far more generous earned income tax credits, fully funding childcare assistance programs, etc.) so that families can afford to pay for basic needs. Young people need financial assistance to make higher education more affordable, universal healthcare so that they and their families receive the care they need, and for homeless youth, we need to provide significantly more support and financial help.

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?

We must promote small businesses and encourage people to do business with them. Part of the response to this goes back to the first answer, addressing racism. Part of the response deals with addressing the COVID crisis - we need to take public health measures (including mask wearing) to help prevent businesses from being forced to close again or delay reopening further. And part of the response involves helping small businesses to thrive, by removing obstacles to their success (such as the huge, unaffordable

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Greg Copeland (Republican)

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)

expense of shopping for health coverage for their employees – universal healthcare, not tied to employment is a top priority of mine, and would lift a big burden from these small businesses.

Do you support mandated ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement?

As mentioned earlier, I certainly agree that education has a huge role to play in anti-racist work, and that we must teach tolerance and understanding of others, and basic human relations. An important part of this education is to help students learn and understand their racial identity through a historical lens. Young people of all races need to have this understanding, and ethnic studies for all students would be an excellent addition.

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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?

Over the years, I have consistently pushed for improved access for voting, including voting materials in more languages and simpler processes for registering and voting, and continue working on this issue. I am deeply disappointed that some seek to make it more difficult to vote in order to give themselves a political advantage. I will keep speaking out strongly against such voter suppression.