



# MN State Senate District 67

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\* 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

**Foung Hawj\* (DFL)**

**Alexander Deputie (Republican)**

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

I will work on policies to expand the reporting of crimes motivated by bias which we do not currently have in our state. SF 4332 is an example of such legislation. In early March, I warned the Senate that Asian Americans suffered two folds during the pandemic: one is COVID-19 and the other is xenophobic attacks. I quickly introduced SF 4660 to order the creation of a Discrimination Helpline, which communities with cultural and language barriers can report incidents of assaults and hate crimes to the MN Department of Human Rights. The bill did not receive hearing but it prompted the Governor and DHR to open the Helpline. I will continue to lead and expand these two legislative initiatives to make more viable support accessible to our Asian-American communities.

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

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

I have heard several points raised by young people and their parents regarding Governor Walz’s fall semester school plans. They prefer a distance learning approach for the benefit of preventing the pandemic but at the same time, they were concerned about the lack of technology and that the lack of direct human interaction might hinder learning and social growth. Therefore, I will make sure that the state holds cities and school districts

### Foung Hawj\* (DFL)

### Alexander Deputie (Republican)

What are your plans to ensure that our youth and young people's voices are also incorporated within legislative decisions? (Cont)

accountable to deliver adequate technology and provide the best interaction student needs based on science. We must give a platform for students to be heard and I will offer a community Zoom for this to happen and will seek AOP's support. There was legislation to provide more nurses, mental health support and guidance counselors in this past biennium but it was blocked by the GOP Senators. I will continue to support this legislation in the next session and will ask AOP to have a presence at the capitol when it is heard.

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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?

This is a difficult time for everyone and more so for families with school children. I will make sure the federal dollars to our young people is used wisely to support the enhancement of learning. I support efforts to make teenagers, who have lost their summer job opportunities to be included in some of the federal Cares Act monies.

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

For health safety, I am counting on MDH to ensure that our Asian owned businesses have the proper guidance to minimize any COVID-19 contact. MDH needs to have an AAPI review committee to oversee the effectiveness of the outreach plan to the community. I will continue to engage them with this initiative.



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

Long term, it is hard to predict but we need to deliver as much direct relief as we can to help stabilize Asian-owned businesses. There are tougher challenges for low-income communities and Asian business owners who lack access to resources and do not have a history with lending networks.. I worked hard, and during special sessions, we were successful in bringing relief to small businesses, micro businesses and Mom and Pop businesses owned by minorities, women and veterans. We also included funding for cultural malls. We are assessing the status of micro businesses and Mom and Pop businesses and I will support rounds of direct aid.

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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?

Yes, in 2018 I worked on legislation that would require schools to have civic classes just as Minnesota has done for much of its history. Mandated ethnic studies in high school must be added to this civics requirement. Also, classes on social history will broaden student's knowledge and prepare them for the future in our diverse workforce and social community. Once the Democrats control the majority in the Senate, keep the House and Governorship this will become reality.

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(Republican)**

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?

Due to our narrow time, I will propose to the Secretary of State and county election managers to make voting accessible to communities with language barriers including Asian-Minnesotans. We need visual and audio demonstrations, language specific, illustrating the steps to request a ballot and complete it. In my campaign I will be doing this in different languages and will make it available to anyone who wishes to use it. Having said that, I do believe the state should fund the creation of PSA's we could all use. Excellent question and one of the most important elements of making sure all Minnesotans have a voice and the election is conducted properly. The polls will also be open and the need for diverse multilingual poll workers are needed. High school workers can earn community service credits and be paid at least \$15.00 an hour and any aged worker can be paid to work on election day.

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