



**League of Women Voters Online Voter Guide  
submitted 10/12/2008**

**1. What is your primary reason for seeking office in this election? What are your specific qualifications for the job?**

We need leaders who have the ability to weigh the economic realities of our funding resources against our social needs in order to provide smart, long-term solutions to balance the state's budget. This is particularly true in these difficult economic times. As a former corporate officer and 8-year member on the Wayzata School Board, I have a strong background in both business and education. We need someone at the legislature who understands the dynamics of growing businesses/jobs and supporting our district's schools. We need someone who has been on the front lines of both business and education and has made hard decisions in prioritizing and spending. As a former elected official, and as current Board Member and Co-Chair of the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce Business/Education Partnership, I have a history of working with officials from businesses, schools, and both political parties on common-ground solutions for the benefit of all.

**2. If the state projects a budget deficit, how should it be addressed?**

I am not in favor of a single approach to solving a deficit problem. Simply adding a greater tax burden on families and businesses already having challenges is not the solution. We should use this opportunity to take a thoughtful look at our government priorities and spending. Let's look at what we are doing, and how we are doing it. Let's make improvements by cutting out waste, using technology to streamline costs, and prioritize spending. We need to encourage economic growth and business expansion in order to maximize employment. I support reviewing the entire tax code with an eye toward long-term reform, including investment incentives that encourage research and development, and support for rigorous curriculum in our schools. This kind of reform benefits everyone.

**3. What are your priorities for education policy and funding?**

In this district, we have great schools and a supportive community. We have high test scores and costs below-average. However, as a former school board member in this district, I know increased government regulations and unfunded mandates are straining the ability of our schools to keep up with the demands for "world class" education. In addition, for many years the Lake Minnetonka area school districts have been passed over for equality index funding changes to Minnesota's complicated education funding formula. This formula needs reform. I will fight for reform that not only includes

equitable funding for our districts, but also reform that links additional funding to improved outcomes – like Q-comp - which our districts have embraced.

#### **4. How would you balance energy policy with environmental concerns and costs?**

Minnesotans value their environment. Our state has made a great deal of progress toward environmental issues in a bipartisan way. For example, we have been a leader in biofuels, which is beginning to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. However, these efforts alone will not be enough to solve the problem. It is important that our state address initiatives in all options regarding energy, with an emphasis on technology that is as cost effective and as environmentally friendly as possible. We need to encourage the private sector to take a leading role. Creating new energy technology can become a positive market force, as well, meaning more jobs for Minnesotans. Financial incentives and education will play a key role in this for our future.

#### **5. What is the role of the legislature in making health care more accessible and affordable?**

Quality, affordable health care should be available to everyone – especially our state’s poorest children. The role of the legislature should be to foster: 1) increased competition in a well-informed marketplace; 2) more flexibility in health insurance purchasing, including crossing state lines to purchase health care insurance; and 3) maximum options so people can choose what makes the most sense for their individual needs and share the rewards of making good choices. I do not support either a state-run or a “one-size-fits-all” approach to health care. My experience as a school board member has taught me that when individuals are more involved in their health care purchases, annual costs are significantly more controlled and stabilized.