



## NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 MINNESOTA SENATE RACE

	Christine "Tina" Smith (D)	Karin Housley (R)
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<b>Abortion:</b> Mostly ban or mostly legal?	Legal. Says women should <a href="#">"have the freedom to decide when &amp; how to raise a family."</a>	Ban. Says <a href="#">"I've fought hard... for our unborn."</a> Has <a href="#">100% rating from MN Citizens Concerned for Life.</a>
<b>Campaign Finance:</b> 1. Require political ads to disclose their largest funders? 2. Support <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited political donations from corporations & unions?	1. Yes. In 2018, cosponsored <a href="#">DISCLOSE Act</a> , requiring organizations spending more than \$10,000 in an election cycle to disclose donors' names. 2. <a href="#">Reverse Citizens United by Constitutional Amendment.</a>	1. Unclear. Said we need <a href="#">"adequate regulations" to ensure candidates raise funds ethically &amp; transparently</a> but <a href="#">supports "free market" for campaigns.</a> 2. Yes. Supports <i>Citizen United</i> : <a href="#">"I would be in support of the way it is right now."</a>
<b>Climate Change:</b> Consider climate change a serious threat?	Yes. <a href="#">"Climate change is real &amp; poses a threat to our economy &amp; our health."</a> <a href="#">Pushed for 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030 in Minnesota &amp; helped expand renewable energy in state gov.</a>	Unclear. <a href="#">Opposed Paris Climate Accord, says would cost trillions, kill jobs &amp; hinder oil, gas, coal &amp; manufacturing.</a> Wants a <a href="#">"balanced approach to climate policy."</a>
<b>Courts:</b> <a href="#">Support President Trump's choice of Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court nominee?</a> (before recent allegations)	No. <a href="#">"We need a Justice who will protect the rights of all Americans... Judge Kavanaugh is not that Justice."</a>	Yes. <a href="#">"President Trump made an excellent choice in nominating Judge Brett Kavanaugh."</a>
<b>Economy:</b> Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	Yes. As MN Lt. Governor, <a href="#">introduced jobs &amp; infrastructure bill to support local economies &amp; create nearly 23,000 jobs.</a>	Unclear. Prioritizes <a href="#">"balancing the budget" &amp; "incentives to keep &amp; grow businesses."</a>
<b>Education:</b> Provide vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools with public money?	No. <a href="#">"School vouchers create a 2-tiered education system, while diverting critical resources from the public schools."</a>	Unclear on vouchers. Says she is a <a href="#">"school choice person."</a>
<b>Environment:</b> Support Environmental Protection Administration cutbacks?	No. Says <a href="#">is fighting efforts to "roll back responsible environmental policy."</a>	No position found. Opposes <a href="#">"too much regulation &amp; bureaucracy."</a>
<b>Financial Regulation:</b> Support cutbacks in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau?	No. Signed <a href="#">letter to US Senate leadership opposing reduction of CFPB funding.</a>	No position found.
<b>Gay Marriage:</b> Support gay marriage?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">"marriage equality" &amp; "LGBTQ equality."</a>	No. <a href="#">In 2013 voted against same-sex marriage bill in MN Senate.</a>
<b>Gun Control:</b> Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">"common-sense gun laws" to keep guns from criminals &amp; dangerous individuals:</a> bump stock, assault weapon & high-capacity magazine bans.	No, with exceptions. <a href="#">Supports "a reasonable ban on bump stocks."</a> <a href="#">Otherwise, focuses on enforcing existing gun laws &amp; addressing mental health.</a>
<b>Healthcare:</b> Support or repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare?	Support. <a href="#">Keep ACA protections in place.</a> But sees single payer as <a href="#">"most direct way to ensure universal coverage."</a>	Repeal. Says <a href="#">"Obamacare has failed hardworking Minnesotans, driving up costs" &amp; reducing quality of healthcare.</a>

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<b>Healthcare:</b> Let Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion healthcare?	Yes. Was vice-president of MN, ND & SD Planned Parenthood. Opposed proposal to <a href="#">block state family planning grants to Planned Parenthood because of its role in providing abortion services.</a>	No. Sees public funds better spent at women's health clinics that <a href="#">"provide real family planning services."</a>
<b>Healthcare:</b> Require people to work to receive Medicaid?	No. Says <a href="#">"most people who receive Medicaid &amp; can work do work." Work requirement would create bureaucracy.</a>	Unclear. Wants to give a work requirement <a href="#">"serious consideration" as a way to prevent fraud &amp; waste.</a>
<b>Immigration:</b> Support path to citizenship for America's 11 million illegal immigrants, including <a href="#">"DACA" recipients</a> or "Dreamers," who grew up in the US?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">"tough but fair path to citizenship,"</a> along with <a href="#">"fiscally efficient methods to secure the border."</a>	Yes, <a href="#">on DACA.</a> No position found on other undocumented immigrants. Considers <a href="#">secure borders</a> #1 immigration priority.
<b>Iran:</b> Support Trump withdrawal from treaty limiting Iran's nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	No. Says <a href="#">withdrawal doesn't reduce Iran's "threat the region &amp; US national security interests"—&amp; makes Iran more likely to develop a nuclear weapon.</a>	Yes. Says <a href="#">"I applaud President Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Iran nuclear deal &amp; reimpose sanctions on the country."</a>
<b>Marijuana:</b> Legalize or decriminalize marijuana?	<a href="#">Learn from experience of states that have legalized recreational.</a>	<a href="#">States should decide.</a> Voted to <a href="#">"legalize limited forms of medical marijuana,"</a> but <a href="#">"needs to be more research on marijuana's efficacy."</a>
<b>Minimum Wage:</b> Raise the federal minimum wage from current \$7.25/hour?	Yes. <a href="#">Co-sponsored legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024.</a>	No. In 2017 in MN Senate, voted to <a href="#">prohibit local governments from raising local minimum wage.</a> Voted against raising MN minimum in 2013 & 2014.
<b>President Trump:</b> Response to President Trump's actions & policies?	<a href="#">Critical of policies &amp; actions: "Nobody is above the law in this country."</a>	Believes in <a href="#">"80% of what he's doing."</a> except tariffs & border separation.
<b>Student Debt:</b> Refinance student loans at lower rates, paid for by raising taxes on high earners (Elizabeth Warren bill)?	Yes. Cosponsored Warren's <a href="#">Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.</a>	No position found.
<b>Student Financial Aid:</b> Increase federal student financial aid, like Pell Grants?	Yes. <a href="#">Has pushed for more funding for financial aid &amp; grants.</a> Wants <a href="#">more investment in technical &amp; vocational training.</a>	No position found on increases. <a href="#">Wants more students to opt for 2-year degrees, &amp; loan forgiveness for students who go to work at local companies in "greater Minnesota" but not the Twin Cities.</a>
<b>Taxes:</b> Increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services?	Yes. <a href="#">As MN Lt. Governor, pushed bill</a> including tax cuts & aid for students, rescinding tax cuts for <a href="#">"super wealthy" &amp; "big business."</a>	No. Speaks of the <a href="#">"crushing impact high taxes have on job creation." "It's your money, not the government's."</a>
<b>Taxes:</b> Support <a href="#">President Trump's tax cuts?</a>	No. Opposes. <a href="#">Instead of saving Wall Street \$3.6 billion, we should have invested in better wages for teachers, affordable childcare, better healthcare.</a>	Yes. Supports the Republican tax act, saying, <a href="#">"there are a lot of good policies in there."</a>

Other senate candidates include [Sarah Wellington \(Legal Marijuana Now Party\)](#) & [Jerry Trooien \(I\)](#). Due to limited space, we can only include candidates who poll 15% or higher, but encourage you to check out their websites.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college & university administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & public candidate statements. For guides to local races, see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).