

Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
2016 Candidate Survey

Candidate	Office	District	Party	Do you agree that the sport of snowmobiling is an essential part of Minnesota's economic health, quality of life and tourism industry?	Will you oppose any effort to divert funds from the Snowmobile Dedicated Account for non-snowmobiling purposes?	Will you resist any legislative attempt to reduce the 1% unrefunded gas tax allocated to the snowmobile dedicated account?	Do you support a portion of the Parks and Trails Legacy Funds to go to trails that benefit snowmobiling?	Will you support efforts to protect and accommodate trail crossings for newly publicly funded rail developments?
Mark Johnson	Senate	1	R	Yes. In Senate District 1 the snowmobile industry has an impact much greater than any other because we are the home of the two best manufacturers, Arctic Cat and Polaris	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
George Nyakasi Bass	House	1A	DFL	Yes. Snowmobileing is a bread & butter issue and should taken seriously. People's economic wellbeing depend on it.	No. Safety is important	No	Yes. So long as a balance approach is taken to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funds-based on priorities.	Yes
Rep. Dan Fabian	House	1A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Debra (Deb) Kiel	House	1B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Rod Skoe	Senate	2	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Rob Ecklund	House	3A	DFL	Yes. Snowmobiling is what helps keep our resorts in business.	Yes	Yes	Yes. In my view that is one of the legacy fund functions.	Yes. We need to develop a system to better deal with rail roads & right of way issues
Rep. Paul Marquart	House	4B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. John Persell	House	5A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Tom Anzelc	House	5B	DFL	Yes of course! Hospitality bus especially.	Yes. On going fight at the Capitol that we mush win.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dennis Barsness	House	5B	GP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sandy Layman	House	5B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Jason Metsa	House	6B	DFL	Yes. I worked hard to ensure the snowmobile trail on the Hwy 53 bridge in my district had funding to reroute the trail as well.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matt Matasich	House	6B	R	Yes. I am a snowmobiler from 1974, I live motorsport	Yes	No. I would work with ATVers and create year round permanent trail systems with destination points	Yes. And ATV too, we are the same people. We can do better than Wisconsin	Yes
Erik Simonson	Senate	7	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. This is a significant sport-especially in NE Minnesota!
Donna Bergstrom	Senate	7	R	Yes	Yes. The Snowmobile Dedicated Account was created for a reason, and its preservation and integrity is a responsibility of State government. There should be no repeat of 2010 improper transfer of money from this account to another account or the general fund.	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Dylan C. Raddant	House	7A	R	Yes. Snowmobiling is an essential industry that needs to be protected	Yes. Common sense	Yes. Common sense	Yes. Common sense	Yes. Common sense
Shawn Olson	Senate	8	DFL	Yes. My Grandfather rode some of the earliest models, my father was an avid snowmobiler, and I started on a Kitty-Cat when I was very young (perhaps too young since I hit the house). Snowmobiling is an important part of our state's heritage as well as a vital part of our winter tourism industry. You have a friend in Shawn Olson.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen	Senate	8	R	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes. I always look forward to your legislative visits in St. Paul. These face to face visits do make a difference.
C. J. Holl	House	8A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Bud Nornes	House	8A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Paul Gazelka	Senate	9	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Carrie Ruud	Senate	10	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Josh Heintzeman	House	10A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Erin Wagner	House	10B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possibly, would like to meet with parks & trails legacy funds to discuss	Yes. Safety is important to me
Rep. Dale K Lueck	House	10B	R	Yes. I am a proud member of MN Snowmobile Association and the vice chair of the House Mining & Outdoor Recreation Committee	Yes. Fully support our motorized trail systems, including both snowmobiles & ATV's.	Yes. I look forward to working with the snowmobile association in 2017&2018 to ensure we continue to invest in our	Yes. Trails & support systems. As a past member of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners I worked hard to build Aitkin County's great snowmobile trails	Yes. System
Tom Jones	House	11B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Jason Rarick	House	11B	R	Yes. As an avid snowmobiler myself, I will always work to promote & protect snowmobiling in MN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Paul Anderson	House	12B	R	Yes. For certain parts of the state economic activity in the winter is heavily dependent on snow and snowmobiles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Steven Zilberg	Senate	14	LIB	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Rep. Jim Knoblach	House	14B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes. Presuming that is and remains an accurate reflecting of the tax attributed to snowmobile use.	Yes	Yes
Chilah Brown	Senate	15	DFL	Yes	Yes	Only if it benefits the district & help education for future generations	Yes. We need to preserve our trails & recreation for our tourists & economic growth	Yes. There is a way to come to agreements to make sure we preserve our trails regardless of potential rail developments. I think outside the box. Its going to take many minds & solutions but its possible. Anything is with the right leadership.
Ken Lestrud	House	15A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Sondra Erickson	House	15A	R	Yes. I need another trail around south Lake Mille Lacs	Yes	Yes	Yes. Absolutely. This is a very good use of Legacy	Yes
Karla Scapanski	House	15B	DFL	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rep. Jim Newberger	House	15B	R	Yes	Yes	Undecided - There may be other ways to bring in more funding. I need to see the proposed legislation first.	Yes	Yes
Sen. Gary Dahms	Senate	16	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Al Kruse	House	16A	DFL	Yes. The season has been short and irratic on snow but still has positive impact	Yes. I don't believe in taking dedicated funds for other purposes	Yes. There are many who contribute including law mower gas and hobby farm tractor gas etc.	Yes. These trails may also be used as bike/ATV trails in summer	Yes. We are in this together!
Rep. Chris Swedzinski	House	16A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Paul Torkelson	House	16B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Lyle Koenen	Senate	17	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Andrew Lang	Senate	17	R	Yes. I am an avid snowmobile rider/outdoorsman	Yes	Yes	Yes. I oppose any legislation that would single out any motorsport activity as unworthy of receiving funds.	Yes
Rep. Dean Urdahl	House	18A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I chair the committee	Yes
Darrel H. Mosel	House	18B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen	House	18B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Clark Johnson	House	19A	DFL	Yes. Very Important	Yes	If it were reduced it would need to be replaced. I am concerned about gas tax funds not used for roads & bridges.	Yes	I need to know more about this.
Kim Spears	House	19A	R	Yes. Snowmobiling takes advantage of one of our abundant, renewable resources; snow.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Sen. Kevin L Dahle	Senate	20	DFL	Yes. My legislative record shows that I am a strong supporter of snowmobile trails and protecting dedicated funding for its original purpose	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jim Connelly	House	20A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I am a long time supporter, past rider	
Rep. Bob Vogel	House	20A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. David Bly	House	20B	DFL	Yes. I am not a snowmobile user but I appreciate those who are and the revenue it can generate.	Yes. It is dedicated for a reason and I support that.	Yes. It seems a fair way to fund it.	Yes. It seems only fair that we respect all legal recreational use.	Yes. We must make sure everyone is safe on trails and roads.	
Rep. Steve Draskowski	House	21B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sen. Bill Weber	Senate	22	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Rod Hamilton	House	22B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sen. Julie Rosen	Senate	23	R	Yes. The last 3 bullet points explain the snowmobile influence & significant importance to MN & our culture	Yes	Yes. Leave it alone	Yes	Yes. Absolutely. Again - Thanks to all the volunteers!	
Rep. Bob Gunther	House	23A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Tony Cornish	House	23B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I always support you!	
Bev Cashman	House	24A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Brian Daniels	House	24B	R	Yes. I used to sell Polaris in the 70's & 80's and know the impact. We need to support this industry.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fran Bradley	House	25B	R	Yes. I enjoyed many years of snowmobiling!	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sen. Carla Nelson	Senate	26	R	It is an honor to represent Senate District 26 in the Minnesota Senate and I am working hard to ensure that I continue to do so. As you know forming sound public policy is the foundation for good government. Thank you for your involvement in this important arena. I appreciate your advocacy for our shared values. While I am pleased to receive your survey questionnaire, I will refer you to my extensive voting record. My voting record is much more than a verbal position. It is an actual action based upon the exact legislation before me. You will be glad to note that: I have supported protection of snowmobilers' funds for the snowmobile trail system. I am running a fully funded, volunteer campaign with broad community support. I hope to earn yours too. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions or if I can be of further service.					
John Wayne Austinson	House	26B	DFL	Yes. I have friends that snowmobile and are part of snowmobile clubs. I ride with them. It is very important.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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Sen. Dan Sparks	Senate	27	DFL	Yes. Snowmobiling is certainly an essential part of Minnesota. It is like ice hockey or fishing for walleye in the summer. It is part of who we are as a state.	Yes. These funds should be protected for the purposes the account was created. It is working to accomplish the goals intended.	Yes. Once again, I think the fund has been working and don't believe that there should be a reduction in the resources going into the account.	Yes. This funding should promote all forms of outdoor recreation including funding for trails with varied and diverse purposes.	Yes. Crossings should be built into the projects.
Gary Schindler	House	27A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Jeanne Poppe	House	27B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dennis R Schminke	House	27B	R	Yes. I am not a snowmobile enthusiast, but it seems like a fun thing to do. I am favorably inclined toward them - and off road vehicles of most types - for access to public lands for responsible use	Yes.	I don't know enough details to give an on the spot answer. This would be a place to let the numbers speak if detailed studies are made.	Again - I don't know enough about our current situation to say.	Yes. I am assuming this as a SAFETY issue
Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr	House	28A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thomas Trehus	House	28B	DFL	Yes. I grew up surrounded by snowmobiles. My father has been an active member of our local club for years. I understand the positive impacts of snowmobiling in our communities.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. Riders bring an exceptional amount of revenue to our area during winter. We must accommodate and protect them and the industry.
Rep. Gregory M Davids	House	28B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Bruce Anderson	Senate	29	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Joseph McDonald	House	29A	R	Yes. For sure!	Yes. Always!	Maybe. For the most part, I am for reducing all taxes. That said, I'll ensure it stays in the snowmobile fund.	Yes. I voted <u>no</u> on the Legacy amendment but now favor \$ for trails.	Yes. Please know I am 100% against light rail. I will not vote on any funds for light rail. Keep up the great work!
Steve Kilburn	House	29B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Nick Zerwas	House	30A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ricky Englund	Senate	31	DFL	Yes	No. That would not be right!	Yes. We need to promote winter in Minnesota, like it use to be back in the 70s and 80s.	Yes	Yes
Cal (Calvin) K Bahr	House	31B	R	Yes	Yes	I need more information	Yes	Yes
Paul Gammel	House	32A	DFL	Yes. Some years it is better than others, but we have a huge industry in Minnesota for snowmobiling.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. It's the least we can do to make it safe for our machines and riders.
Jay Nygard	Senate	33	LIB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. We own 5 sleds - I am your biggest supporter you will find in gov't. Longtime member Westonka Snoblazers. I hope your organization will support me as much as I do you.

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Sen. David Osmek	Senate	33	R	Yes. As a city councilman in Mound, I led the effort to get more access to Lake Minnetonka for snowmobiles.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. See above. I helped gain access across a paved trail in Mound.	
Rep. Joyce Peppin	House	34A	R	Thank you for sending me your candidate questionnaire and background information. I appreciate your organization's interest in the political process. As you are aware, legislation changes regularly. Amendments in committee and/or the House floor can dramatically alter a bill's content and meaning. Support or opposition to a particular proposal can change based upon constituent or stakeholder input. Consequently, I do not believe it is fair to your organization or the members you serve to complete candidate questionnaires that may not be an accurate representation of what I may vote upon in the legislature. I welcome the opportunity to meet with members of your organization who reside in District 34A at any time, and I look forward to working with you in the 2017 legislative session in the event the voters choose to re-elect me on November 8.					
Roger Johnson	Senate	35	DFL	Yes. I was a snowmobiler myself, along with my family, a number of years ago. We no longer own snowmobiles. But when we did we had a great time and enjoyed that aspect of living in Minnesota. There is no question that the snowmobiling industry in Minnesota has great impact.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes. Like many other organizations who want to lay their hands on proceeds from the Legacy Funds, we will need to stack up all the requests against the monies available through the Legacy Funds, which can vary annually. I support a portion of these Funds to go to trails that benefit snowmobiling; but I cannot say at this time what portion of how much in dollars I will support.	Yes. For reasons of public safety, such crossings must be made, and made safe.	
Sen. Jim Abeler	Senate	35	R	Yes. We own three.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Wes Volkenant	House	35B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Peggy Scott	House	35B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	I don't know enough about this to answer.	
Rep. Mark W. Uglen	House	36A	R	Yes. I snowmobile myself out of Walker on the Bunyan and Heartland.	Yes	Yes	Yes. We also need to get bike riders to pay for their use of our trails	Yes. I am the author of a RR crossing safety bill in Coon Rapids	
John Hoffman	Senate	36	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jerry Newton	Senate	37	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Brad Sanford	Senate	37	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sen. Roger Chamberlain	Senate	38	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kevin Fogarty	House	38A	DFL	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Matt Dean	House	38B	R	Yes. It is very important to note that tourism is weather dependent. Ice fishing, snowmobiling, fishing & hunting need to be available & we need to help the industry.	Yes	Yes	Yes. <u>Some</u> folks like snowmobiling, <u>some</u> like theater, <u>some</u> like both.	Yes.	
Sen. Karin Housley	Senate	39	R	Yes. I own two myself.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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Rep. Bob Dettmer	House	39A	R	Yes. My wife and I have a 2nd home/cabin in Silver Bay, MN. We have access to some of the best trail in Minnesota.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Alan Kantrud	House	39B	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, I would like to see efforts to make/ensure that these trails are or remain multiuse as well-I know many are open in summer for OHV use, for example.	Yes. Keep it safe!	
Rep. Kathy Lohmer	House	39B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Candy Sina	Senate	42	R	Thank you for your questionnaire regarding issues that are important to your organization. Since these are issues that I am not currently familiar with, I will need to do more research and study before I can take a position on them. I cannot simply give a "yes" or "no" answer at this point. Thank you.					
Randy Jessup	House	42A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Don't know. I do not know how these funds are allocated nor the criteria established for their allocatoin. I need more information to answer.	Yes	
Chris Belflower	Senate	43	IP	Yes. There are many establishments outside of the metropolis of the Twin Cities that wholly depend on the revenue generated from our snowmobile industry. It is devastating when Minnesota does not receive the anticipated snowfall for the recreational sledders.	Yes. One of my "non-negotiable" facets of my platform is economic improvement. Part of this improvement plan is to ensure that we have RESPONSIBLE SPENDING from our legislators. This means fighting to ensure that tax dollars brought in for specific uses (such as the snowmobile registration tax) specifically remain going to those sources.	Yes. We already have this set in place. There is no reason to reduce it. If we can ensure that we have responsible spending in legislation, we can ensure that this 1% remains intact and protected. If it doesn't get used, then we build the funds as a surplus to be used for our snowmobile community or a cushion in the event we have an off year in regards to the weather.	Any park or trail system that allows snowmobiles to be used, should benefit from the Legacy Funds. We need to ensure that our trails are maintained which is going to require funds.	Yes. If it comes to the point where rail systems are brought through the State, I will fight to ensure that trails and crossings are protected or there are adequate acomodations for snowmobilers to be able to ride on those trails safely.	
Bob Cardinal	House	43A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Patti Meier	House	44B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Sen, Ann Rest	Senate	45	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Roxana Bruins	Senate	45	R	Yes. Absolutely! Minnesota includes long winters & snowmobiling is a "Minnesota thing!"	Yes. These funds are allocated for the purposes of snowmobiling related issues.	Yes. This fund is supported by the very users of the fund & those people & organizatoins should be able to recover & use that 1% allocated to them!	Yes. Minnesota is all about recreation, outdoor activities & trails are trails!	Yes. There's a big battle going on about light & heavy rail. Quality of life is important & should not be hindered by new, big/costly projects! All trails need to be safe!!	
Rep. Lyndon Carlson	House	45A	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Jim Nash	House	47A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rep. Joe Hoppe	House	47B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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Mike Lehmann	Senate	49	R	Yes. MN is known for some of the best and most scenic trails in America!	Yes. Fully support your current source of funding.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. JoAnn Ward	House	53A	DFL	Yes. It is an integral part of the culture for many people.	Yes	Yes	No. A portion MAY be designated for snowmobiling trails, but I am reluctant to dedicate those funds specifically to snowmobile trails. That is to be negotiated within the Legacy process.	No. Current crossings are adequate. I am open to discussing specific examples of need, and these other questions as well.
Don Slaten	House	54B	DFL	Yes	Yes. We need look no further then funds taken from the Dakota County Land Fill Dedicated Funds to understand where future shortfalls wil occur. Leave dedicate funds alone	Yes	Yes. I do have issues with snowmobile use on paved trails, track wear damage, support all use on unpaved land	Yes. Safety first.
Tony Jurgens	House	54B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sen. Eric Pratt	Senate	55	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Phillip M Sterner	Senate	56	DFL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Roz Peterson	House	56B	R	Yes. I have been an avid snowmobiler for decades and a member of Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association since 2004	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cory Campbell	Senate	57	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rep. Anna Wills	House	57B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I authored a bill for approx \$2M to build a tunnel under railroad track in Rosemount for safety of those using the trail (The Mississippi River Regional Trail).
Tim Pitcher	Senate	58	R	Yes. I have been snowmobiling for 48 years. I've owned many and am fully aware and <u>supportive</u> of snowmobiling and its vital economic impact.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. I fully believe crossings are necessary "if" more rail is built, as its old technology.
Rep. Jon Koznick	House	58A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tom Gallagher	House	61B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ron Moey	Senate	63	R	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Margaret Mary Stokely	House	65B	R	Yes. I used to live in Canada - Skidoo!	Yes! I oppose <u>any</u> pilfering from any dedicated accounts.	Yes	Yes	Yes. Please be kind to the environment.
Carolyn Jass	Senate	66	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sorry, I don't know enough about this-feel free to contact me regarding.
Jon Heyer	House	66A	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Lisa Thompson	House	67B	R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes