

2010 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire Responses

	Tom Emmer (R)	Phil Herwig (R)	Joe Repya (I)	Marty Siefert (R)	Harley Swarm (Constitution)
Do you support Governor Pawlenty's unallotment of the Political Contribution Refund (PCR) program?	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Do you support having a state "Fair Tax" and eliminating the state income tax?	**	NO	YES	**_	YES
Do you support that States be in charge of health care issues, not the Federal government?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you support cutting spending instead of raising taxes in case of a budget deficit?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you believe that paying for stadiums, cultural centers and other entertainment venues is a local issue and should not be funded with State monies?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Should the government fund non-profit entities?	NO	NO	NO	**	NO
Do you support Minnesota becoming a Right to Work state?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you support Governor Pawlenty's proposal to freeze or cut the State's current spending?	YES	YES	**	YES	YES
Do you support Minnesota requiring a valid, state issued voter ID card in order to vote?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you support the Minnesota Food Assistance Program (MFAP), which provides assistance to certain non-citizens?	**	NO	YES	**	NO
Do you support eliminating prevailing wage rate requirements (Davis-Bacon)?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you believe State government should repeal the Nuclear Power Plant Construction Moratorium?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

**** Candidates did not feel they could provide a YES / NO response or provided a write-in response. If these issues are important to you, we encourage you to contact these candidates to learn their position on these issues.**

If you had the power, briefly describe the two things in State government you would change:

Tom Emmer:

1. First Things First Legislation that I have offered. It would make it so the legislature would need to finish the budget before it worked on other legislation.

2. Pass term limit legislation.

Phil Herwig:

1. **Redistrict Public School System:** New York City (NYC) has the largest public school system in the country. It has 1.1 million students and 37 school districts. Minnesota has 823,000 students and 340 school districts. If we use NYC as a model we could probably get along with 27 school districts. We have calculated that this would save the state over \$600 million in administrative costs in a biennium.

2. **Welfare Reform:** The fastest growing segment of the budget is social services. We need to only provide for those that are physically and mentally unable to care for themselves. Dismantle the rest of the welfare system. Encourage private sector organizations (Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, etc.) to handle temporary individual and family needs. Provide a 125 percent deduction for charitable giving. This would save \$billions!

Joe Repya:

1. Truly balance Minnesota's budget and restore the rainy day fund.

2. Cut corporate tax in half to restore our friendly business environment for large and small businesses in Minnesota to create Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

Marty Seifert:

1. Downsize Government at all levels.

2. Massively reform Welfare.

Harley Swarm:

Aside from the obvious issues of Tax Reform and cutting the size of state government:

1. The state's energy policy must change, allowing construction of the new coal, gas, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants before the current old plants fail.

2. Get Minnesota education out of "No Child Left Behind" and all other mandatory federal education programs.