

July 29, 2024

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To Whom It May Concern,

We urge you to choose Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as Vice President Kamala Harris' running mate. As labor leaders, we know it is essential to choose a candidate for vice president who can deliver on working families' priorities once in office and be an essential partner in winning in November.


Walz is a former high school teacher, football coach and member of Education Minnesota, the state's union of educators. As governor, he has been an ally of working families. He gave educators raises by increasing education spending by billions of dollars, enacted paid family and medical leave for all families, provided unemployment insurance to hourly school workers, expanded the collective bargaining rights of Minnesotans, provided free school meals to every Minnesota student, appointed a labor lawyer to lead the state Department of Labor and Industry, signed a tough law against wage theft by corporations and developers, and made it illegal for employers to force working people to attend anti-union meetings.

Walz has been effective because he has been able to cross lines of race and place. Born in a small town in rural Nebraska, he won six races for the U.S. House from 2007 to 2019 in a deep red district in southern Minnesota. He has shown he can connect to voters at a county fair about kitchen table economic issues or in the heart of the multiracial Twin Cities. In 2022, he won re-election as governor by nearly 8 percentage points and helped the Democrat-Farmer-Labor Party take the House and Senate. He knows education, agriculture, immigration, the culture of the Midwest and military affairs.

He honed his leadership style in military barracks with Americans from all walks of life as a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard. He is one of only two sitting Democratic governors to have served in the military and he remains the highest-ranking enlisted officer to ever serve in Congress. His counsel has been valued by both Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, who appointed and reappointed him to serve as co-chair of the bipartisan Council of Governors, advising the president and cabinet on homeland security and national defense.

A ticket with Walz likely delivers Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District. He makes Michigan extremely competitive. There is no path to 270 electoral votes without those states. Furthermore, his recent appearances on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC have shown his ability to efficiently expose the dog whistles and hypocrisy of the opposition - an especially necessary skill in an abbreviated campaign.

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*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.* 



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In summary, Gov. Tim Walz should be the next vice president of the United States. He has a biography and legislative accomplishments that deliver key states. He will walk into any forum as an effective spokesperson for working people. He has a demonstrated talent for exposing the opposition as liars, race-baiters and just plain "weird" (his word). Finally, we know him well enough to say he will be a trustworthy and loyal counselor to President Harris and her administration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bernie Burnham, *President*
Brad Lehto, *Secretary-Treasurer,*
Minnesota AFL-CIO

Brian Aldes,
Secretary-Treasurer
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