

U.S. SENATE



Tina Smith
DEMOCRAT



Karin Housley
REPUBLICAN

Smith has been critical of many Trump policies and potential legal problems. “Nobody is above the law in this country.”

ON PRESIDENT TRUMP

Housley backs the president and has appeared with him on the campaign trail. “I do support his policies. I don’t know if I’m a fan of his style, but his policies are working.”

Smith says she wants “common-sense laws that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and dangerous individuals.” She’s working on a measure to ban people convicted of stalking from having guns.

GUN CONTROL

She says: “The rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms is a fundamental guarantee of our Constitution. ... We must enforce existing gun laws, better address mental illness, and prevent violent criminals and known terrorists from gaining instant access to firearms.”

Smith supports a single-payer health care system and says it’s “the most direct way to ensure universal coverage.”

HEALTH CARE

Housley is critical of the Affordable Care Act and says she believes in “a patient-centered, market-driven health care system that provides individuals and families with affordable, accessible coverage and care.”

She says a “strong public education system — from early childhood to higher education — is one of the most important investments we can make.” Smith has authored a bill to provide kids with mental health services in school.

K-12 EDUCATION PRIORITIES

She believes education should be a state and local responsibility and is critical of federal education mandates. “We must eliminate wasteful and duplicative federal programs and allow states and local school districts the freedom to best serve their student populations, and give parents every available tool to provide the best possible education for their children.”

Smith wants to [promote community and technical colleges](#) and authored a bill called the “21st Century Workforce Act,” which invests in key partnerships between education, local business and higher education.” She also backed a measure to help people refinance student loans.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Housley has [advocated](#) for a student loan forgiveness program where the government and employers work together to create incentives to bring workers to greater Minnesota. She has been critical of the cost of college, but said the issue should be up to states to address — not the federal government.

Smith says people covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy should receive help [becoming citizens](#). She has also criticized the Trump administration’s practice of separating children from their parents at the border.

IMMIGRATION

Housley has [criticized](#) the Trump administration’s practice of separating children from their parents at the border. She also says “Securing our borders is the [first step](#) toward a workable immigration plan that attracts the best and brightest students and workers, ultimately improving our economy and preserving our global competitiveness.”

She’s pro-choice and has [spoken out against](#) efforts to oppose abortion rights.

ABORTION

She [opposes abortion](#) and would be against using federal funding to pay for it.

She says it’s crucial to advocate for “[fair trade policies](#) that help Minnesota workers, businesses and farmers get ahead, and we need to crack down on foreign countries that break international trade rules and put American workers out of jobs.” She has also backed a measure to close the pay gap between men and women.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

She has called regulations a “[silent tax](#)” hindering job creation. “The bureaucracy and regulations really, really, really hurt Minnesotans over the last eight years and that all happened under the Dayton-Smith administration,” she told the [Brainerd Dispatch](#).

Smith [pushed for 50 percent renewable electricity](#) by 2030 in Minnesota and says she helped expand renewable energy in state government, resulting in over \$20 million in savings. Among her work in the Senate, she says she fought the Trump administration’s rollbacks of environmental standards and pushed for renewable energy funding in the Farm Bill.

CLIMATE CHANGE

She [told WCCO](#) the Paris climate agreement would’ve “cost the American people trillions of dollars, killed jobs, and hindered the oil, gas, coal and manufacturing industries. ... I believe in a balanced approach to climate policy that lowers emissions, promotes economic growth and ensures energy security.”

In the Senate, Smith [backed a land swap](#) between the federal government and mining company PolyMet, which was required for it to build a copper-nickel mine in northern Minnesota. However, she argues that doesn’t necessarily mean she endorses the mining.

COPPER-NICKEL MINING

She says: “Mining is one of Minnesota’s most important industries. [When it comes to copper-nickel mining](#), I believe we can both protect our environment and mine responsibly, maintaining our clean water while opening the door to a major economic boost.”

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Smith wants “[a fairer tax code](#) that supports working families, not just the wealthiest of Americans.” She has pushed tax credits to [help middle-class families](#) with child care. She opposes the recent GOP tax bill and says it “adds \$1.5 trillion to our national debt and risks major cuts to Social Security and Medicare.”

TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Housley [favors lower taxes and less spending overall](#). “It’s your money, not the government’s — and as a small business owner, I understand the crushing impact high taxes have on job creation. I believe a healthy economy begins when hardworking Minnesotans keep more of their earnings and businesses are free to spur economic growth.”

She [has said](#) more research is necessary to weigh the benefits of legalizing recreational marijuana.

MARIJUANA

She [has said](#) states should decide the issue for themselves.
