



MINNESOTA

2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE

Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- Minnesota, historically, boasts one of the [lowest uninsured rates in the nation](#) (4.4% in 2018).
- However, Minnesota's **unemployment rate jumped to 9.9% in May 2020**, which likely **severed tens of thousands of Minnesotans from their employer-sponsored insurance**.
- In March and April 2020, **9,482 Minnesotans enrolled in private health insurance plans**, and more than **13,700 applied for public health insurance programs** during [MNsure's special enrollment period](#).
- A disproportionate **number of people infected with Coronavirus (44% on June 8th) are black, indigenous, and people of color** while making up [20%](#) of the state's population.
- As of June 5, 2020, nearly [80% of people who have died](#) from COVID-19 in Minnesota were residents of long-term care facilities.
- In May 2020, Minnesota's current state budget — which goes through June 2021 — was projected to incur a [\\$2.42 billion budget deficit](#) due to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Minnesotans can access quality health care they can afford.

KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** “Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system.”
- Take an active stance:** “It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone.”
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** “I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place.”
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** “The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us.”



Learn more about United States of Care at unitedstatesofcare.org.

For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at Help@USofCare.org.