



Who are MTI VOTERS?

MTI-Voters is the political action committee of Madison Teachers Inc. which seeks to identify candidates most likely to advance policies supported by the members of MTI, policies that support MMSD staff and students, and advance the quality of public education in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The Political Action Committee is known as MTI VOTERS. The Committee consists of the President of MTI or their designee and the Treasurer of MTI, the President or their designee of each of MTI's affiliates, including MTI-Retired, an Educational Support Professionals (ESP-MTI) member selected by the ESP-MTI group, and eight (8) members elected by the MTI General Membership. This member-comprised committee coordinates MTI's political endorsement process and advances recommended candidates to the thousands of MTI members who vote to formally endorse candidates based on those recommendations.

Completed candidate questionnaires will be posted on the MTI website for members and the public to read. Visit madisonteachers.org/elections/ for more updates

Important Dates and Information

Wednesday, September 23, 2026	Please deliver your responses to MTI via email: mjohnson@madisonteachers.org
Wednesday, September 30	In Person Candidate Interview 5:45pm at MTI Headquarters, Media Room, 33 Nob Hill Road, Madison, WI 53713

Contact Mone't Johnson mjohnson@madisonteachers.org with questions or scheduling concerns.



MTI VOTERS

2026 Fall Election Questionnaire

1. Why are you running for elected office?

My story, my values, and my record are rooted in the experiences of working families across Wisconsin. I was raised in Milwaukee by parents who worked hard to make sure my siblings and I had opportunities, despite struggling with mental health issues and drug addiction. We didn't have a lot, but we had strong values: hard work, community, and the belief that if you work hard you should be able to build a better life. That experience shaped who I am and why I've dedicated my career to public service.

As Milwaukee County Executive, I've focused on delivering real results. We've invested in good-paying jobs and small businesses, cut Milwaukee County's carbon emissions in half, reduced our opioid overdose deaths by 30%, expanded mental health services, and worked to ensure our economic recovery reaches every corner of our community.

This election is about leadership that understands the challenges families face and has the experience to move Wisconsin forward. My story started in Milwaukee, but the values behind it are shared by people all across this state, and that's what I'll fight for every day. We need a Governor that's ready on day one to keep moving our state forward.

2. If elected, what are the three priority policies you will work to advance?

My Badger Basics plan is built on three pillars: Affordability, Care and Opportunity.

Affordability means addressing the biggest drivers squeezing household budgets - housing and energy. We must not only build more affordable housing, but expand opportunities for attainable housing as well. I am proud that Milwaukee County has the lowest unsheltered population per capita in the country. We must reduce utility costs, stabilize prices and make investments that help families keep more of what they earn. The goal is to make Wisconsin a place where working families can build stability for the long-term and plan for the future.

Care focuses on expanding access to health care, mental health services, child care, elder care and maternal health. Families must have access to all of these services before reaching a crisis point. We recognize that strong communities depend on strong support systems and the government should provide and work proactively to improve public health outcomes. In Milwaukee County, we believe in the "No Wrong Door" model of care. Once you ask for help from the County, we wrap the other necessary services around an individual or family to ensure their success, no matter how they entered the system. This has kept people out of our jails and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. We can right size this model to communities all across Wisconsin.

Opportunity means creating clear pathways to long-term success. This means investing in fully funding public education, workforce development, apprenticeship programs, technical colleges and partnerships with employers to connect people with family supporting jobs. We must prepare Wisconsin to lead in emerging industries like health technology, AI, advanced manufacturing and clean energy to create economic growth opportunities in every region of the state. In Milwaukee County, we have innovated and developed strong partnerships between Milwaukee Public Schools and local employers to create youth apprenticeship programs connected to the County's Courthouse Complex project, which gives students hands-on experience and direct pathways into construction and design careers. We can show our young people there is a bright future by leveraging government and private-sector resources to build these pathways.

3. What are your three most important education issues?

Fully funding our schools (including special education), addressing student mental health services, and ensuring teachers' voices are

4. How does your role relate to public school funding and what changes, if any, would you make to how public schools are funded?

Wisconsin's current funding system is outdated and inequitable. It fails low-income students, underfunds special education, doesn't keep up with inflation, and leaves rural schools struggling to meet basic needs. We can and must do better.

As Governor, I will work with education stakeholders to modernize our school funding formula by incorporating student-centered weights, including additional funding for students living in poverty, English learners, and students with disabilities. I am committed to fully funding special education, so districts aren't forced to divert money from classrooms. I also support inflationary adjustments so schools aren't falling behind every year, and targeted investments to stabilize and strengthen rural schools that are often overlooked.

Addressing the public school funding crisis also means fighting to reduce overreliance on property taxes and pushing back against policies that drain resources from public schools through privatization and vouchers. I will make fully funding public education a top budget priority and use the power of the Governor's office to push the Legislature to act — because educational excellence depends on fair, predictable, and sustainable funding.

Strong public schools are the foundation of strong communities, and my commitment is to build a funding system that works for every student, in every zip code.

5. Would you oppose any efforts for the state to take over public school districts or school board?

Yes. I opposed previous MPS takeover efforts and would oppose state takeover of any school as governor.

State takeovers strip parents and communities of a meaningful voice in their schools and replace locally elected leadership with decision-makers who are not directly accountable to the families they serve. That is bad for education and democracy.

Nationally, the track record on state takeovers is abysmal. They attempt to treat the symptoms of struggling schools without addressing underlying

challenges of inadequate resources, staffing shortages, poverty, and student needs.

When districts face serious problems, the state should ensure accountability and transparency, while providing the resources, expertise, and support necessary to improve outcomes—not eliminate local democratic governance.

6. Will you oppose Trump's Federal Scholarship Tax Credit or any other voucher expansion legislation?

I oppose the expansion of school voucher programs.

As Governor, I will make fully funding public school special education a top budget priority. That means moving to a sum sufficient model, closing the funding gap, and ensuring educators have the resources they need to meet every student's IEP — without robbing classrooms to do it.

Additionally, I support voucher transparency legislation, and Wisconsin taxpayers deserve clear, honest information about how the expansion of the voucher program affects their local schools and property taxes.

As the voucher program has expanded statewide, more taxpayer dollars are being diverted from public schools to private schools, often without voters fully understanding the impact. When students enroll in voucher schools, state aid is reduced for public school districts, and too often that shortfall shows up as higher local property taxes. Transparency is not an attack on anyone — it's about accountability and informed decision-making.

I support requiring property tax bills to clearly show the reduction in state aid tied to voucher enrollment, so taxpayers can see the real cost of these policies in their own communities. Families and voters have a right to know how state decisions translate into local tax impacts.

As Governor, I will actively advocate for this legislation, work with educators, school boards, and local governments to build support, and use the power of the Governor's office to push the Legislature to act.

7. Will you support sum sufficient special education reimbursement for public schools at 90% in the 2027-2029 budget?

Right now, public schools receive only about 42% of special education costs, while private school voucher programs are fully funded – and are even being allowed to spend beyond what a student’s IEP requires. That creates a two-tier system that shortchanges public schools, educators, and students with disabilities. It’s wrong, and it must change.

As Governor, I will make fully funding public school special education a top budget priority. That means moving to a sum sufficient model, closing the funding gap, and ensuring educators have the resources they need to meet every student’s IEP – without robbing general education classrooms to do it.

Students with disabilities deserve full support, educators deserve fairness, and public schools deserve a funding system that matches our values. I will fight to deliver that.

8. Will you support legislation to overturn Act 10 and restore full collective bargaining rights to all municipal workers?

I support repealing Act 10 and restoring full collective bargaining rights for all municipal employees, especially educators. Union rights are not a side issue – they are fundamental to instructional quality, workforce stability, and student success. When educators have a voice on workload, preparation time, class size, and professional development, institutions are stronger and outcomes improve.

Act 10 stripped instructors of that voice, weakened recruitment and retention, and sent a clear message that their expertise was undervalued. As Governor, I will work to restore the rights of teachers to organize, bargain, and advocate for the conditions that allow them to teach at the highest level. Respecting educators means respecting their unions – and Wisconsin’s schools will be better for it.

Wisconsin’s schools succeed because educators are empowered to do their jobs well. My administration will make that commitment clear – and back it up with action.

9. If elected, will your proposed FY2027-2029 budget include an adequate level of funding so that each Wisconsin K-12 student receives a free school breakfast and lunch each school day, regardless of family income?

Yes. I supported this when Gov. Evers proposed it in his last several budgets, and I will work with Legislative leaders to prioritize universal healthy meals for students as part of our education budget proposal.

10. Do you accept funds from political action committees?

I'm committed to running a campaign that is focused on the people of Wisconsin and the issues that matter to them and I have not received any contributions from the groups you are describing

My campaign will follow all campaign finance laws, and we will accept support from individuals and organizations that share our commitment to strengthening our economy, protecting workers, investing in education, and building stronger communities. At the same time, I believe transparency in campaign finance is critical so voters can clearly see who is supporting candidates and why.

What will guide my decisions is not who contributes to a campaign, but what is best for the people of Wisconsin. My focus will always be on representing Wisconsin families, workers, and communities – and making decisions based on what serves their interests.

Candidate Name: David Crowley

Date: 9/23/26