

MTI VOTERS

2026 Fall Election Questionnaire

1. Why are you running for elected office?

I'm running for Secretary of State to be a strong statewide voice for working families and for the public schools our communities depend on. I've spent my career fighting for the things families need, from nearly a decade in the Wisconsin State Assembly to my service on the Milwaukee Common Council. I've seen up close what happens when the state underfunds education: districts forced into referendum after referendum, underpaid educators, and families left to fill the gaps. Wisconsin families from Kenosha to Superior are working harder than ever and still falling behind, and they deserve leaders who show up and fight for them. I'm running to do exactly that, and to help protect our democracy at a moment when the freedom to vote is under attack.

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

First, fully funding our public schools so districts aren't forced into constant referenda and educators are paid what they deserve. Second, easing the cost of living for working families through affordable child care and housing relief. Third, protecting the freedom to vote by standing against voter suppression and disinformation and championing expanded ballot access. Across all three, I'll be a consistent, credible statewide advocate.

3. What are your three most important education issues?

Fully funding public education so the state meets its obligation and communities aren't forced into endless referenda. Supporting and respecting educators, including restoring collective bargaining rights that were stripped away under Act 10. And protecting and growing the resources that directly reach classrooms and libraries, including the Common School Fund, which I'd oversee as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. Our kids and our educators deserve a state that invests in them.

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

As a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Secretary of State helps oversee the Common School Fund, whose earnings are distributed to every Wisconsin school district and are the primary source of funding for public school libraries, a record \$73.5 million this year. I'll be a careful steward focused on protecting and growing that fund and defending it from efforts to divert money away from our kids. More broadly, I'll use this office as a statewide platform to advocate for a fundamental change in how we fund schools: the state meeting its commitment to public education so districts aren't forced to rely on referenda just to keep the lights on.

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

Yes. Decisions about our public schools belong with the local communities, elected school boards, and educators who know their students best, not with state officials imposing takeovers from above. I'd oppose efforts to strip local districts and school boards of their authority, and I'd use my voice to defend local control and democratic accountability in public education.

6. If applicable, will you support legislation to restore full collective bargaining rights to all municipal workers?

Yes, wholeheartedly. As a freshman legislator in 2011, I was one of the Democrats who stood on the Assembly floor for 61 straight hours fighting Act 10. While the Secretary of State doesn't cast votes in the Legislature, I've never stopped believing that restoring full collective bargaining rights to all public workers, including educators and municipal employees, is one of the most important fights we face. I'll use my voice and this office to advocate for it.

7. Do you accept funds from political action committees?

Yes. I accept PAC contributions consistent with Wisconsin's campaign finance rules, and I'd be honored to have MTI VOTERS' support. What I won't do is take support from groups whose agendas run counter to working families, public education, or the freedom to vote.

Candidate Name: JoCasta Zamarripa

Date: 9/22/26