

HOWLING FOR WOLVES®

2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Responses are included exactly as received/written

Candidate name: Nathan Kells

Office seeking: MN State House of Representatives

Legislative District: 48A

Main Cities in the Legislative District: Waconia, Victoria, Chaska, Cologne, Mayer

Political Party: Democratic-Farmer-Labor

Question 1.) Do you support the current law which allows for recreational hunting of wolves in Minnesota at the discretion of the DNR?

Candidate Response: *Yes*

Question 2.) Do you support a ban on public wolf hunting and trapping in Minnesota?

Candidate Response: *No*

Question 3.) Do you support trapping reforms to eliminate snaring - a type of trapping that uses cheap wire nooses to catch animals? (

Candidate Response: *Yes*

Question 4.) Do you support requiring permission to trap on private property?

Candidate Response: *Yes*

Question 5.) Do you support renewing adequate state funding to help farmers, wolves, and communities coexist by supporting smart and nonlethal strategies that prevent conflicts?

Candidate Response: *Yes*

FINAL: Please feel free to provide any additional comments relating to your responses above.

Candidate Response: *Thank you for reaching out. I grew up in rural Minnesota and see the pros and cons of the situations above. I would suggest:*

Wildlife Management:

A regulated wolf population can help maintain the balance between predators and prey, supporting the overall health of ecosystems. When wolf populations are managed appropriately,

they can help control deer and other ungulate populations, which can prevent overgrazing and promote biodiversity.

Economic Considerations:

In rural areas, wolves can pose a threat to livestock, leading to financial losses for farmers and ranchers. By managing wolf populations, the state can help protect agricultural interests, ensuring that farmers can maintain their livelihoods without the fear of losing livestock to predation.

Public Safety and Human-Wildlife Conflict:

As wolf populations increase, so does the potential for human-wildlife conflicts. Effective population control can help mitigate these risks, ensuring that communities feel safer and more secure in their daily lives. This is particularly important for residents living in proximity to wolf habitats.

Cultural and Recreational Aspects:

For some communities, wolves are part of the natural heritage and cultural identity. Controlled population management can allow for sustainable practices that enable coexistence, allowing residents to appreciate wolves while also addressing concerns about their impact.