

HOWLING FOR WOLVES®

2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Responses are included exactly as received/written

Candidate name: Rich Tru

Office seeking: MN State House of Representatives

Legislative District: 03A

Main Cities in the Legislative District: Silver Bay, International Falls, Grand Marais, Ely, Hoyt Lakes, Babbitt,

Political Party: Forward Party Independent

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: No I do not support this law giving legality to wolf hunting, even with DNR discretion. I was going to bring up the point about with legal hunting of any animal, even more illegal hunting happens with it. Beyond that, the wolf to deer ecological balance that ebbs and flows is delicate. People just want to kill the wolves so there are more deer to hunt. That is it. There is no entitlement to have such a huge deer population to hunt and beyond that, deer are non-native and not overall great for this habitat. Speaking chiefly to the undergrowth in the forests that the deer decimate and too many deer to hunt (which also would increase car accidents) would exacerbate the health of our boreal forests.

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

Candidate Response: I do support a ban. I feel like even with the ban, there would still be the clause that allows for the shooting or trapping on your land when livestock or pets are endangered, so there will still be that and some illegal personal hunting, so that's more than plenty. There numbers are determined by their prey, if they eat all the deer then they have less pups and their numbers go down, until the deer population goes way up then the wolves population go up with the food surplus. It is rather basic "natural food system" knowledge I thought more Minnesotans knew. I also know humans are always messing with the habits of the other animals in any share environment, so these hunts would not be good for animal patterns like you said, which could put them back on the endangered list faster and make their regrowth as a species harder the next time.

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, I would support this. Of the 20 states, I know Michigan (for which I have family living there, as well as, here in Minnesota and in Wisconsin) have eliminated snare trapping. My uncle in fact is a trapper by professional trade and rarely, if ever anymore, uses snares. There are better trapping methods if they need to be implemented, that use specific baits and such, so your trapping a targeted animal and not just indiscriminately. Snares are cheap, lightweight, and fairly simple so that's why people like them. The bigger Conibear or Box Traps are more expensive and heavy to haul around, thus making illegal trapping much more of

a chore, than if snares were available. As a hunter, generally, I have never supported snares, because like when wounding any animal, if it isn't dead it is in pain. That being said, if you shoot an animal and it runs, you are responsible to track it down, if you snare something and it gets away, it will be injured and you won't likely find it. That would be the trapper's fault for needless pain and suffering. There are alternatives, it is not a ban on trapping, so yes again, I support that.

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

Candidate Response: I think in a state where many people have large swaths of private land that yes you should need a trapping permit. There is invaluable knowledge that comes with getting licenses, like knowing the laws. For instance, I know my uncle in Wisconsin has to check traps every 24 hours, as well as, all traps need to have name and info for people can know who's traps they are and for state officials to know, as well. Do i think their should be a different law that allows private ranches and such, to be allow to set up traps for on going predictor issues on their land, yes i do. Not snare traps, dogs get in those all the times, but i trust a professional worker who knows what they need to do to protect their animals to look into how to trap well, otherwise they just hire people who do have licenses. I would saying following Wisconsin's lead is a great step to follow.

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, that would be a great way to go forward with some of these other law changes. Having well trained pets/work animals is needed more than ever with lazier owners, so having a system to breed and train pets/workers better would be amazing and inexpensive. Help with specific area problems for nonlethal wolf capture and release where we can to help move their territory else where, when needed should continue. Plus, some rebate programs for things like fladery and some green lighting would be nice. Maybe an easier system of communication for carcass removal too, should remain available.

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

Candidate Response: I have mentioned by background as a family who hunts (not all) and with a member who is even a professional trapper. Seeing both sides of these issues for me is relatively easy, and I am assuredly going to help bridge any communication barriers with future colleges at the state to get the right laws passed and have everyone, especially the public understand we do this for the long term health of all humans and animal and the environment. Everyone should be treated as valued when issues and solutions are discussed, and from there we can get these passed and with the will of the people support us in the majority.