

Voters need to hear that Jake Johnson supports an extreme agenda that would hurt Minnesota working families and retirees. Johnson is backed and bankrolled by Tim Walz and his cronies, was a member of a group that supported taxpayer-funded health care for illegal immigrants and defunding the police, and he supports higher taxes.

Seniors need to know Johnson supports gutting Social Security, Medicare and Veterans health care.

- 1 Backed And Bankrolled By Tim Walz And His Cronies
- 2 Was A Member Of A Group That Supported Taxpayer-Funded Health Care For Illegal Immigrants And Defunding The Police
- 3 Johnson Has Repeatedly Supported Higher Taxes
- 4 Gutting Social Security, Medicare & Veterans Health Care

Republican voters need to learn that despite his rhetoric, Johnson donated to Bernie Sanders and has called President Trump a “would-be ... dictator.”

- 1 Donated To Bernie Sanders
- 2 Called President Trump A “Would-Be ... Dictator”

ATTACK Backed And Bankrolled By Tim Walz And His Cronies

First Candidate Endorsed By Walz This Year



([X.com](#), 7/16/26)

Birds of a feather, ...

“Now, **like Walz** did 20 years ago, **another teacher new to politics** is running as a Democrat to try to unseat another Republican incumbent.”

([MinnPost](#), 8/3/26)

Bankrolled By Walz's Liberal Backers And National Liberal Megadonors

DONOR	AMOUNT	NOTES	SOURCE
Small Town PAC	\$3,500	Tim Walz's SuperPAC	Federal Election Commission , 7/16/26
Vance Opperman	\$7,000	"longtime supporter" of Walz and a significant donor to the DFL's outside-money network; Opperman's company, Key Investments, Inc, gave Walz's Small Town PAC \$25,000	Star Tribune , 10/31/24; MinnPost , 10/3/24; Twin Cities Business , 12/1/13; FEC , 2025-2026
Alida Messinger	\$7,000	Rockefeller heir and lead donor behind the DFL's outside-money machine	MinnPost , 10/3/24; FEC , 3/6/26
Jim Deal	\$7,000	*Passed away in August Walz appointed Jim's wife, Pamela Deal, to the Metropolitan Airports Commission in 2025 and both Jim and Pamela have been long-time major donors to Walz' campaigns and the MN DFL	FEC , 2025-2026; MAC , July 2025; Minneapolis Star Tribune , 10/31/24; MinnPost , 8/30/24; Ballotpedia , 4/14/22
IBEW PAC, SMART TD PAC, NEA Fund, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen PAC, American Federation Of Teachers PAC, AFSCME PEOPLE PAC, SEIU COPE	\$36,000	National Labor Unions	FEC , 2025-2026

ATTACK Was A Member Of A Group That Supported Taxpayer-Funded Health Care For Illegal Immigrants And Defunding The Police

JOHNSON POSITION

"As a parent and educator in Rochester for many years, **I have been proud to be involved with ISAIAH** and Faith in Minnesota for the past two years."

Jake Johnson LTE, Post-Bulletin, 10/8/24

THE FACTS

- ISAIAH's Legislative Accomplishments page for 2023-2024 includes "Healthcare Access & Affordability - Establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board and **a pathway for MinnesotaCare as a Public Option, including undocumented children and adults!**" ([ISAIAH](#), 2023)
- ISAIAH's "Values Agenda" includes "A **guaranteed healthcare system** that creates health and provides ongoing support **for all**" ([ISAIAH Minnesota](#), as of 9/30/26)

JOHNSON POSITION (AUDIO)

"I'll also fully fund our police departments"

([Jake Johnson Radio Ad](#), 10/1/26)

THE FACTS

- ISAIAH's Legislative Accomplishments page for 2023-2024 includes "Public Safety - We've made our state and communities safer AND honored people's dignity by **banning private prisons, passing gun safety laws, and built stronger oversight of police accountability and practices.**" ([ISAIAH](#), 2023)
- ISAIAH's "Values Agenda" includes "**A justice system that shifts from punishment to restoration and redemption.**" ([ISAIAH Minnesota](#), as of 9/30/26)
- In 2021, **ISAIAH pushed to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department**



ISAIAH
@ISAIAHMN



The MPLS City Council's vote this afternoon to move the Public Safety Charter Amendment to the Commission is an important step towards allowing the people of Minneapolis to reimagine a public safety system that serves the many, not the few. Change is long overdue. #EnoughMPD

1:44 PM · Mar 12, 2021

(@ISAIAHMN, [X.com](#), 3/12/21)

- “This amendment would create a Department of Public Safety combining public safety functions through a comprehensive public health approach to be determined by the Mayor and Council. The department would be led by a Commissioner nominated by the Mayor and appointed by the Council. **The Police Department, and its chief, would be removed from the City Charter.** The Public Safety Department could include police officers, but the **minimum funding requirement would be eliminated.**”

(“2021 Ballot Questions,” [Vote.MinneapolisMN.gov](#), 11/2/21)

- “Minneapolis needs police — good ones. The ones who welcome accountability and transparency. Who want, as much as anyone, to be rid of the rogue cops in their midst, who have the training and ability to curb the current surge of violent crime. Regrettably, this amendment — called City Question 2 — would accomplish none of that. It would replace the title of Minneapolis Police Department with that of ‘Department of Public Safety.’ It would replace a police chief, answerable to the mayor, with a commissioner who would answer not only to the mayor, but to each of 13 council members — **a recipe for chaos and infighting.**”

([Star Tribune](#) Editorial, 9/25/21)

ATTACK Johnson Has Repeatedly Supported Higher Taxes

JOHNSON SAYS (VIDEO)

“In the Big Beautiful Bill that passed, we saw our national debt driven up by over \$3 trillion. Congressman Finstad voted for that. **I would have voted against that.**”

([ABC 6 News](#) Interview at 9:45, 5/1/26)

THE FACTS

- “Allowing the tax cuts to expire would result in **the single most significant tax increase by dollar amount in history**, an estimated \$4.6 trillion revenue increase over a decade, from fiscal year 2025 to 2034, including interest.”
([PolitiFact](#), 4/22/25)
- “The Tax Foundation estimates **the average Minnesota taxpayer receives a \$3,548 tax cut in 2026** under the law.”
([Tax Foundation](#), 2/24/26)
- “**TCJA increased the Child Tax Credit (CTC) from \$1,000 to \$2,000**—the first \$1,400 of which is refundable—and increased the income thresholds from \$110,000 to \$400,000.”
([Tax Foundation](#), as of 9/29/26)
- “**The bill would exempt tips and overtime pay from federal income taxes**, fulfilling two of Trump's campaign promises. It would also **allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$10,000 of auto loan interest** for U.S.-made vehicles.

"The bill also features a **temporary tax break of \$6,000 for seniors** that phases down as income increases."

([NBC News](#), 6/30/25)

JOHNSON POSITION

In 2023, Johnson **praised the Democrat Minnesota legislature's budget that increased taxes by \$10 billion**

Make no mistake, support for schools happened this year because Democrats controlled the House, Senate, and governorship. If we want to ensure education funding that meets the needs of our kids, we need to elect representatives who will lead for our families and our communities.
Jake Johnson, Rochester

(Jake Johnson LTE, *Post-Bulletin*, 8/12/23)

THE FACTS

- "Despite a historic nearly \$18 billion budget surplus and Minnesota's already high-tax environment, this session **the legislature increased taxes by nearly \$10 billion over the next four years**. Although some taxes decreased mostly for lowerincome (*sic*) taxpayers through one-time rebates and refundable tax credits, businesses and taxpayers at all income levels will see permanent cost increases."

([Minnesota Chamber of Commerce](#), 9/13/24)

JOHNSON POSITION

Supported a \$100 million tax increase to pay for teacher raises

"While the district's administration was discussing the proposal separately, a member of the union's negotiating team, **Jacob Johnson, encouraged the teachers in the audience to help raise awareness of the proposed tax increase** that will be on the referendum in November.

"This proposal is predicated on that referendum passing,' Johnson told his fellow teachers. 'If and when this referendum passes, it's because of the work that REA did ... this team will make sure it's coming back to us.'"

([Post Bulletin](#), 9/15/23)

THE FACTS

- "Rochester voters have rejected a tax levy question posed by Rochester Public Schools (RPS).
"Rochester Public Schools asked the voters for \$10.15 million annually for 10 years."
- "Rochester's public school teachers have proposed a **15% pay increase** during the latest round of their ongoing negotiations with the city's school district."
- "(Rochester Public Schools Superintendent Kent) Pekel did emphasize during Thursday's meeting, however, that **a significant increase would be contingent on voters approving the tax increase** that will be on the ballot in November."

([Post Bulletin](#), 9/15/23)

ATTACK **Gutting Social Security, Medicare & Veterans Health Care**

JOHNSON SAYS (VIDEO)

"We need a balanced budget amendment and no more borrowing until the budget is balanced"

([Johnson Campaign Ad](#), 9/23/26)

THE FACTS

- "A balanced budget amendment would require **draconian spending cuts** of such a magnitude as to force policymakers to severely **slash Medicare, Medicaid**, and many other programs"
- "A balanced budget amendment recently under consideration in Congress would have a **disproportionate impact on Social Security**

and Medicare.”

([The Senior Citizens League](#), as of 9/23/26)

- “This ideological approach **ignores basic math**. Spending on Social Security, Medicare, defense, and veterans programs constitutes two-thirds of programmatic spending. There is simply no way to significantly reduce deficits, let alone balance the budget, with a spending-cuts-only approach that somehow doesn’t deeply affect these core and broadly supported public services.”

([Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), 3/16/26)

- “**No programs would be off limits. Not Social Security, not Medicare, not defense, not veterans’ health care.** Claims that these programs would ultimately be protected ring hollow, given their share of the budget. If policymakers decide to shield those programs from cuts, the amendment would require lawmakers to devastate the rest of the federal budget — including Medicaid, food assistance, housing assistance, education, scientific and medical research, farm aid, national parks, transportation, airport security, mine safety — since revenue increases would be so hard to achieve.”

([Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), 3/16/26)

ATTACK Donated To Bernie Sanders

THE FACTS

- Jake Johnson **donated \$20 to Bernie Sanders 2020** via ActBlue on Oct. 19, 2019.
([FEC](#), 10/19/2019)

ATTACK Called President Trump A “Would-Be ... Dictator”

THE FACTS

- “It’s about priorities and what we value. When we value **the words of a would-be autocrat and dictator** over the voices of so many citizens of our district,’ [Johnson] said.”
([The Journal](#), 6/11/25)