

Intellectual freedom



Election Questionnaire May 2026 Part 2

Both candidates strongly agreed that elected leaders should recognize the public's constitutional right to free speech, to protest government policies, to practice those rights in public spaces, etc.

Alissa Ellman: I have been to over a dozen protests across the district and I hope to go to over a dozen more before election day. We need to raise our voices against the far right movement currently in control of our government.

Diana Kastenbaum: My time in grassroots activism has shown me the power of community building and the importance of political speech. The current administration's attempts to stifle freedom of speech and expression through "lawfare" and violence--as seen in Minneapolis--are nothing more than authoritarian plots to stifle the innate power of the people. Fighting back means organizing from the ground up and putting the power of the people on full display! We must continue to peacefully assemble, and our elected officials must do more to protect our right to do so.

Both candidates strongly agreed that elected leaders should ensure that diverse materials and ideas are included in school curricula and in school and public libraries.

Alissa Ellman: Strongly agree. No comment.

Diana Kastenbaum: It has become fashionable to "other" people for their identity, and divide people along racial, ethnic, religious, or gender lines. Quality education requires access to different perspectives and new ideas. The censorship of any content for nothing other than centering the perspectives of otherwise marginalized communities is a disservice to public education.

Both candidates strongly agreed that teachers and librarians have the professional expertise to choose appropriate curricula and books and should guide decisions.

Alissa Ellman: I am a former teacher. Allowing a wide selection of books for students is the best and only way to instill a lifelong love of reading. I will always let teachers and librarians make decisions on books available to readers, not far-right book banning groups like Moms for Liberty.

Diana Kastenbaum: Strongly agree. No comment.

Both candidates strongly agreed that the right is making false claims about this country's ties to Christianity; we cannot elevate one state religion.

Alissa Ellman: There is no one religion, we have had freedom of religion in this country since its very founding, as writings from the founding fathers clearly show. The right to practice your religion (or to choose not to practice religion) must be protected.

Diana Kastenbaum: Strongly agree. No comment.