

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



**Addie Miller**  
**Running for MN**  
**Senate District 47**

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she/her/hers | [www.addieformn.com](http://www.addieformn.com)

## Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play?  
Why or why not?

Yes - our Sheriff's department takes community trust very seriously and have consistently demonstrated the desire to maintain that trust and improve community involvement.

What does the phrase "public safety" mean to you?  
What builds safety? What detracts from it?

Feeling safe in your home and community - that differs for everyone - but at a minimum it should mean there is no fear of personal harm from citizens or law enforcement. Community trust is huge in building safety - both in each other and in law enforcement. Bursts of petty crime can make people feel unsafe but there hasn't been major safety concerns here in my district.

<p>What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district? How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?</p>	<p>There's an overwhelming support for the Carver County Sheriffs and a push to hold Chaska PD accountable to the same standards. Groups like ROAR (Residents Organizing Against Racism) have been involved with community outreach and policy development, which adds to the support. That's not to say there aren't issues, but the willingness to acknowledge that and improve is evident.</p>
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<p>What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?</p>	<p>Support from the state for crisis counselors and mental health professionals would alleviate a lot of pressure from law enforcement and increase the safety of our community immensely. The current Sheriff converted a deputy position to a social worker position and said it has been incredibly successful. He also is requesting funding for body cams, which I support. I'd also like to see some state support for our Veterans programs and housing programs - they're great but underfunded and could do a lot more good with state support.</p>
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**Police Issues**

<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>Sorry - kinda covered this one above!</p>
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<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>Reallocating resources for various mental health professionals, homelessness advocates, sexual assault victim advocates, etc. To allow the appropriate response to any situation and allow the police to get back to what they're supposed to be doing.</p>
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<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>None to my district. Minneapolis (and every community) should be able to decide what works best for them.</p>
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<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I support the POCI Caucus legislative priorities, going further on the accountability bill, and I'd like to support a severing pension bill for folks convicted in an officer-related death. I don't believe, as a white woman, it's my place to lead the way on this but I will be a very vocal advocate and ally for these initiatives and use my privilege to uplift those voices.</p>
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**Criminal Court Issues**

<p>Do you notice any inequities in the courts in your district? What do you see as the driving force in those inequities? How</p>	<p>This district is pretty homogenous as far as race and wealth. That is steadily changing though and I expect to see a greater disparity as time goes on. To get ahead of that, the state can help by eliminating cash bail, for example, and making sure public defenders are paid competitively so they provide appropriate</p>
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<p>can we count on you to respond to any inequities?</p>	<p>representation. I know Scott County is having issues on that front.</p>
<p>Diving into topics like bail, services for crime survivors, court fines and fees, special prosecutors, and sentencing and probation guidelines can illustrate how public policy has immense and diverse impacts on Minnesotans. Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>As a sexual assault survivor, I am fairly well-versed in that issue area and support ending the statute of limitations for sexual assault and intimate partner violence crimes, strengthening the stalking law, and compelling testing for rape kits. Beyond that, I support the POCI caucus criminal justice reform initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Incarceration Issues</b></p>	
<p>In your opinion, what is the purpose of incarceration? Do you believe that incarceration accomplishes those purposes well? If not, why not, and what would you do about it?</p>	<p>Originally created as a "dissuasion" or "punishment," I don't believe jail time accomplishes that for many people. It should be a place where we focus on behavior correction by treating the root problem - addiction, mental health, homelessness, etc.</p>
<p>What do you know about alternatives to incarceration and how they address violence and other undesirable or criminalized behavior? What incarceration alternatives do you support and why?</p>	<p>Restorative justice programs have been wildly successful and should be expanded. I worked for a judge during law school who was very supportive of that system but there weren't a ton of opportunities for him to implement those actions. Our local VA is very supportive of restorative justice programs patterned after "drug courts" in other states - I support those alternatives.</p>
<p>* Every district in Minnesota is home to people who have experienced incarceration. How do you think issues like access to health care, visits/phone calls/emails, education, and other programming while incarcerated affect your constituents?</p>	<p>It's extremely difficult to escape from the cycle of poverty that oftentimes comes with incarceration. Our county also struggles with funding for healthcare for those awaiting trial and really prioritizes the health and safety of those in jail. The state needs to make up the difference in federal funds.</p>
<p>* For purposes of drawing legislative districts, should incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they are incarcerated, or should</p>	<p>I have never considered this - thank you for raising the issue! My initial reaction is where they had their last residential address as that's likely where they'll be returning.</p>

<p>incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they had their last residential address? Or something else? Why?</p>	
<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	<p>Restore the Vote! It's just insane to me that people who have served their sentence to completion and are affected by the laws, have no say in who makes those laws.</p>

**Reentry Issues**

<p>* People return from incarceration to every district in Minnesota. How do you think issues like access to housing, employment, health care, recovery resources, mental health supports, basic needs, and voting or civic engagement affect your constituents?</p>	<p>We have a significant lack of affordable housing here and the county has done a lot to try to make up the difference and provide mental health services. I know community members struggle with these and many other issues, including what's listed here.</p>
<p>What, if any, changes would you make to re-entry policies? And what investments, if any, would you make to re-entry supports in your district? Why?</p>	<p>Our county has some great veterans transitional programs that could be (and should be) expanded to re-entry for all.</p>

**Public Health Issues**

<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>I can't speak from a place of authority here but overall support as I'm a big supporter of Commissioner Schnell. It's a shame to see the cuts and potential closing of Togo and programs in other facilities.</p>
<p>* What, if any, public health crises do you think have inequitable impacts on people who are involved in the criminal legal system, and how can we count on you to respond to these public health crises?</p>	<p>This is not my area of expertise so I wouldn't try to solve this myself - I would bring the experts in the area in to come to a better conclusion than I ever could on my own.</p>

**Personal Connections**

<p>* Are there any ways in which you feel personally connected to issues in policing, criminal court, incarceration, and/or re-entry? What is personal about these issues for you, and how will that impact your priorities and/or stances?</p>	<p>As a law grad, sexual assault survivor, and someone who works at the Capitol, I'm very interested in using my variety of experiences to help support those leading the way in criminal justice reform.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>Being elected would be a great first step. Organizing greater advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels is always helpful as well.</p>