

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



Brad Kovach
Running for MN
House District 30B



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he/him/his | <https://bradkovachforhouse.com/>

Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?	Yes. I've lived throughout the U.S. in big cities, some with high crime rates and have always felt safe.
What does the phrase "public safety" mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?	It's the public entrust in our government and neighbors. Presence and professionalism builds public safety. Corruption, aggressive policing, and bias detracts from it.
What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?	I'm in a fast growing bedroom community in a rural farming area. Low crime, insular, and rather idyllic. To be honest, I don't think there's much expectations for assurance or any real distractions. It's pretty vanilla out here in District 30B

How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?	
What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?	Likewise with the previous comment. There's not much for expectations out here in District 30B. People are focused on other matters.

Police Issues

What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	They're well received and respected. It's the Wright County Sheriff's office.
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	Comprehensive state and urban police reforms to reduce systemic racism based policing.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	No changes for either state or district. I think defunding the police is misguided window dressing. What we really need is institutional reforms.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	Comprehensive reforms to reduce police brutality, racism, and de-escalation. The latter related to the "over armoring" trend we've seen recently that has no place in a peaceful, civil society. Cops don't need tanks and armored vehicles!

Criminal Court Issues

Do you notice any inequities in the courts in your district? What do you see as the driving force in those inequities? How can we count on you to respond to any inequities?	Not necessarily in the district, but we need overall criminal justice reforms including legalization of marijuana and alternatives to incarceration. We need prison reforms, and abolishment of for profit prisons.
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.	I'm not sure specifically, but I will support incarceration reforms, reforming bonding and fines that are excessive, and ways to reduce our racial incarceration inequities.

<p>Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	
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Incarceration Issues

<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>Yes and no. Drug offenses should not be criminalized, they should be treated using alternative approaches centered around sobriety and re-entry.</p>
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<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>Through alternative sentencing programs like drug court and treatment centers, community prevention programs, education and workforce training, family and social structures, and most importantly gun control.</p>
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<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>We need to improve them all across the board. It would go a long ways towards reducing recidivism. Also through prison gang and violence reduction enforcement and reforms.</p>
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<p>* For purposes of drawing legislative districts, should incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they are incarcerated, or should incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they had their last residential address? Or something else? Why?</p>	<p>They should be counted where they had their last residential address. Because that is where they're from and who they should be represented by.</p>
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<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	<p>None to my knowledge, I'm a first time candidate. But I would support and champion bills along these lines, as they fit with my principles.</p>
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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 need to do a MUCH MORE ON ALL THESE POINTS. Including voting rights and re-entry employment. We need to reform our employment standards so former inmates can get a job!</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>I would support the above mentioned reforms both legislatively and through funding. Everyone deserves a second chance, but we must do our part to enable that to be realized. It's heartbreaking.</p>
<p>Public Health Issues</p>	
<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>I'm not sure, we haven't heard much of the response. But intuitively, I'm sure there are shortcomings and I know there are racial inequities in every aspect of incarceration that we MUST prioritize.</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>To be a voice and be loud when called upon. Again, I have no doubt that there are inequities.</p>
<p>Personal Connections</p>	
<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>I'm deeply concerned about systemic racism in our criminal justice system. Enough!</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing</p>	<p>By voting for me on November 3rd. My motto: "Make Representative Governance A Reality Again"</p>

any changes you've outlined here?