

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN  
Senate District 63



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[wrightforstatesenate.com](http://wrightforstatesenate.com)

## Public Safety Issues

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

Since the murder of George Floyd, the ensuing riots, looting, destruction of private property & the arson to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct police station just eight blocks from my home; the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, the economic depression and the chronic homelessness it created; the barely scraping-by local businesses, job market, and the appalling local, state & federal government responses; and nowhere to support and enjoy local live music entertainment, restaurants, bars, theater, sports, libraries, etc; I guess you could say, I haven't felt safe to live, work or play in my neighborhood.

What does the phrase "public safety" mean to you?

In my view, the purpose of government, and the reason to exercise police power, is to promote and protect the public health, safety and the general welfare, but none of those is

<p>What builds safety? What detracts from it?</p>	<p>possible unless you preserve liberty. I share President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s view on public safety which he called the four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The Fourth Amendment says, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” That right is virtually null and void as a result of narcotics prohibition and the national security state. If they can search your urine without probable cause you have no job security. If you cannot hold a sign that says, “Bong hits for Jesus” you have no free speech; if you cannot smoke cannabis as part of your Rastafarian religious beliefs you have no freedom of religion; if you are denied work, housing, education, food stamps, public benefits, right to vote or serve on a jury because politicians support the systemic racism called narcotics prohibition, you do not have freedom from want.</p>
<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>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>Abolishing the police will result in anarchy, but I’m not opposed to abolishing the Nixon-Reagan racist War on Drugs and the world record mass incarceration surveillance police state, the largest jailer of African Americans and Latinos on planet earth. The DFL and GOP prefer systemic racism to drug legalization. For the most part, I would repeal prohibition and regulate most narcotics just like alcohol. If you can smoke tobacco, which kills over 400,000 people a year; drink alcohol, which kills over 88,000 people per year; and you can own a gun which kills 35,000 people a year, then you can legalize anything. The reason to exercise police power is not to protect public safety, it is to protect the State's police power to control you. Prohibition creates racial bias in the minds of the police and the public by reinforcing and conditioning prejudice by the prohibitionist media and politicians who associate crime with minorities. Is it any wonder why there are so many police murders of minorities like George Floyd and Philando Castile. If you are a drug prohibitionist, you are an accomplice to these police murders. Shame on you!</p>

<b>Criminal Court Issues</b>	
What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	I just answered this question above. When police are required to enforce racist drug laws, they are naturally going to profile minorities as criminals. You can't reform police without reforming the laws you force them to uphold. A lot of gangsters are armed. Prohibition creates a shoot-first ask questions later, trigger happy police. As former Minneapolis police chief Tony Bouza once said, "We don't shoot to wound, we shoot to kill." Perhaps that view needs to change, especially when cops are confronted by nut cases, domestic confrontations and those committing suicide by cop.
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	We know diversity doesn't change the dynamics. Our police force is racially diverse. I like the idea of our cops being locals, but I'm not sure that that would change anything. I would seek to find and enact the best research on policing and apply what is working well in other parts of the world to see if it works or not.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	I would raise the educational standards for police officers and compensate them appropriately for their professionalism.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	The police accountability legislation passed at the legislature this session had some good components like banning dangerous restraints, excessive force incident reports might be helpful and maybe residency requirements. It's easy to lay the blame on lousy cops and policing methods, but why won't the legislature lay the blame on themselves for the racist drug laws they insist cops enforce. Minnesota deserves an end to racist laws, but the DFL & GOP would rather die than end the racist War on Drugs. They prefer systemic racism, world-record mass incarceration and the destruction of civil rights and liberties. The DFL & GOP are lawbreakers who flout Article 13, Section 7, of the Minnesota Constitution which says, "Any person may sell or peddle the products of the farm or garden occupied and cultivated by him without obtaining a license therefore." It was illegal to defraud Minnesotans of their right to cultivate cannabis without a license. Now the DFL wants Legalize by Fraud, but the GOP still likes to Criminalize by Fraud; both denying our right to cultivate without a license. Blast these jackasses. If elected I would attempt to amend this unconstitutional law by the by the House Majority Leading Lawbreaker, Rep. Ryan Winkler.
<b>Criminal Court Issues</b>	
Do you notice any inequities in the courts in your district?	

<p>What do you see as the driving force in those inequities? How can we count on you to respond to any inequities?</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>Article 1, Section 7, of the Minnesota Constitution says, “All persons before conviction shall be bailable...” I believe that a bail system where only the few can afford their freedom, but not the many is an unjust system. I support the work of the Minnesota Freedom fund. I intend to introduce legislation to bring about a restorative justice system that rehabilitates offenders through reconciliation with victims, including direct compensation to victims and the community. I support a restorative justice system as it is practiced in Norway. Norway has an incarceration rate of 75 per 100,000 compared to Minnesota with 364 per 100,000 and has the lowest recidivism rate in the world at 20% compared to Minnesota’s rate of 61%.</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>Number one, incarceration is necessary to arrest offenders from causing harm to their victims and the community. Number two, in a 2007 report on recidivism the US justice department found that incarceration increases recidivism. Number three, usually the loss of freedom is punishment enough, the focus should be on making sure prisoners don’t come back. Number four, if you treat prisoners like caged animals, then they’re likely to behave like animals when released. I would introduce legislation to reform our criminal justice system like they have in Norway and rely on the best cognitive-behavioral science programs rooted in social learning theory. The maximum life sentence in Norway is 21 years, which can be extended in five-year increments if the system determines the inmate is not rehabilitated.</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>We know that offenders often have poor reading and learning skills, learning disabilities and need behavioral training. Better educated people commit less crime. Providing housing, education and social services can help. If a person loses their job due to incarceration, they are not likely to get their job back after they’re released. I think probation, community service and restorative justice for non-violent offenders is superior to locking people up. It’s better to have a leg bracelet than lose your job. People that can’t find work are often more likely to re-offend. It’s best to keep them out of jail if possible.</p>
<p>* Every district in Minnesota is home to people who have experienced incarceration. How do you think issues like</p>	<p>Our state needs to prepare prisoners for life outside of detention facilities through vocational and educational programs, access to housing and social services. Prisoners should not be abused while in detention. Access to health care, visits from friends and family, phone calls should be free and contact through emails</p>

<p>access to health care, visits/phone calls/emails, education, and other programming while incarcerated affect your constituents?</p>	<p>should be allowed. My community constituents are not well served if prisoners re-offend.</p>
<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>In Norway, politicians come to detention facilities to campaign because you don't lose your right to vote simply because you're in prison. Just because you lost your freedom to be in regular society doesn't mean that you shouldn't be represented in that society.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	<p>I would introduce legislation to allow all prisoners a right to vote. No prisoner should be disenfranchised. I would introduce a restorative justice bill that ends recidivism and protects public safety.</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>As I've noted before, criminal recidivism does not help the community of my constituents. If a former inmate can't reintegrate into society, then they are more likely to re-offend. If they don't have access to housing, employment, health care and social services, crime is their only choice.</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>The only way you can make a man trustworthy is to trust him. The surest way to make him untrustworthy is not to trust him and show your distrust. It may take the government to be the employer of last resort. Once someone has shown themselves to be a valuable employee, others will be willing to take a chance with that individual as well. Perhaps providing incentives to employers to hire former convicts who are rehabilitated is a good idea. Maybe if contractors want a government contract they have to have at least one former convict in their employment.</p>

**Public Health Issues**

<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>Gov. Walz and the State of Minnesota did nothing to restrict the pandemic from entering the state, refused to require mandatory masks in crowded areas and did nothing to quarantine areas with high infection rates. If you compare a poor nation like Vietnam with 35 deaths per 96 million population, with a rich State like Minnesota with 2107 deaths per 5.6 million populations, you realize what a disgraceful response to public safety looks like. I suppose other State have failed worse, but I warned this irresponsible Administration back in late March to adopts some of Vietnam's policies, informing them all and their legislative assistants, but they would rather see you die than do what's best for Minnesota. They can never say they weren't warned and I can prove it. I've heard that two prisoners have died in Minnesota's prisons. There has not been a single report of a prisoner dying of COVID-19 in Vietnam. I think the Department of Corrections is doing a better job now than in the beginning.</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><b>Personal Connections</b></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've been fighting against the racist War on Drugs prohibitionists for 34 years and seeking the release and expungement of all non-violent prisoners jailed on drug charges. Blast these prohibitionist jackasses. I base my views on critical thinking, objectivity, facts and truth. I try not to let my prejudices color my views. Unlike my adversaries, I'm not a money-chosen candidate who has more allegiance to special interests than the voters.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>Go to my website <a href="https://www.wrightforstatesenate.com">https://www.wrightforstatesenate.com</a> or on Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ChrisWrightforSenate/">https://www.facebook.com/ChrisWrightforSenate/</a></p>