

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN
Senate District 43

This questionnaire is for educational purposes only. MNSCC does not endorse any specific candidate for the Minnesota House or Senate.

Public Safety Issues

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

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

What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?

<p>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>	
Police Issues	
<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	
<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>Improve screening and training programs, expand POST board, ban choke holds, active, ongoing community meetings-engagement-dialogue with stakeholders.</p>
<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I support improvements that increase efficiency in service delivery. I do not support defunding the police.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	
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 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</p>	

<p>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>	
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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>	
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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>Incarceration has a big impact on one's life. It's important that services be humane and helpful to help maximize an inmate's hope and future opportunity.</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>I support an inmate's last residential address since it is more relevant and reflects their community.</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>	
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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>Reentering society following incarceration is a significant challenge. Persons face discrimination in all the areas mentioned in the question. Obstacles need to be removed.</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>Public Health Issues</p>	
<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</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>Inequality unfortunately is well documented. I will support and advocate needed reforms.</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 know and have worked with persons involved in all of these areas. As an attorney, I have represented clients in criminal court. As a volunteer at Legal Assistance, I worked with clients. I have also been an adjunct college instructor at Century College and many students in my State and Local Government class were in the college's law enforcement program. I personally value the importance that we address these challenges. I also have many friends who advocate needed changes which we mutually embrace.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	