

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN
House District 1b**

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she/her/hers

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Public Safety Issues

<p>Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Yes. It is a small town. I also feel safe because people know me and I am very familiar with this town, I grew up in Minneapolis, MM where violence was pretty common and still is.</p>
<p>What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?</p>	<p>It mean that there are resources that I can go to and that are available in times of need. Flood, fire, assault, theft, food, health care.</p>
<p>What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?</p>	<p>Over use of arrests and Imprisonment seems to occur. Our local jail is also an ICE Facility. Our facility falls under the category of being a prison for profit. Many people seem to</p>

<p>How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?</p>	<p>support the police and fire depts. For locals safety, esp. now means being able to have a job and being able to feed ones family.</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>I support making sure peoples individual needs are met. Food, Shelter, Health, Education. I support redistribution of police funds to reflect supporting proper responses to different events, for example full de-escalation training.</p>

Police Issues

<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>In my district there is support for the Police as they are, but I have met many individuals who recognize "there has to be a better way," when things go wrong. Police tend to give speeding tickets, DUIs, drug possession busts, and accident response. We have one officer who works in the high school and created a youth community center. There is active work being done to help at risk youth.</p>
<p>What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>Redirecting the way responses to calls are made and approached. Fully funding de-escalation techniques. Make sure that the officers live in the area that they represent, maintain a diverse work force. Body cameras for all active duty officers, on at all times.</p>
<p>What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I have not seen our local police budget. I would like the budget to be balanced towards safe response actions to the public's distressed behaviors.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>Not at this time. I am still learning what needs to be done and how I can best represent those in need.</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>Social economic status seems to impact weather a person will spend time in prison or jail. Our systems are set up to disadvantage low income individuals. Ex. Fines and tickets, bail, all are things that is you cannot pay then you get punished more. I would like to put a stop to that.</p>
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<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.</p> <p>Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I would support any bills that created fair practices for low income individuals whose fines, bail, etc. are used punish instead of to heal.</p>
<p>Incarceration Issues</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>Incarceration from my perspective is to keep very dangerous individuals off the streets, until they are no longer a danger to others or themselves. I include rapists, murderers, pedophiles in this category. I understand some can be reformed, and others cannot. I think incarceration can help the community and the victims to feel a bit safer. I also believe there are many areas where incarceration might not be the best first choice, and alternatives should be sought out or made available.</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>I am interested in supporting alternatives. Community support programs, work programs, counseling, vocational education, access to educational resources, access to healthcare, language studies, and more.</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>I would think that access to proper health care, phone calls emails and education would be very important to those who are incarcerated.</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>It seems that is they are counted as part of the district they are in that could be greater incentive for prisons for profit. Which I am against. It seems more natural make it the address the person chooses.</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>I look forwards to becoming familiar with bills around incarceration/probation.</p>
<p>Reentry Issues</p>	
<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>I imagine it is a struggle for each individual. I live in a very small community, but almost everyone I know has been in prison, juvie or jail. In my community there is less stigma at having a record, since almost everyone has one. All of the issues that you list affect the individual. We have wonderful mental health services, and social services support. Employment is a challenge for everyone, but I believe we have companies around us who will work with these individuals.</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 broaden availability and access to Trade development.</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 understand it has been terrifying and challenging. I think they should stand by best practices, and like the rest of us limit how many people can be in a room at a time.</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>As you noted above, racism is a public health crisis. A crisis that has been going on for a very long time. We need to acknowledge the inequities that we put on people of other races and then we need to be strong enough to correct them.</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?</p> <p>What is personal about these issues for you, and how will that impact your priorities and/or stances?</p>	<p>My Uncle spent 25 plus years in Maximum Security Mental Health Lock Up. I visited him my whole life. I have strong feelings, in his case I would never have let him out knowing what I know now. But I would be wrong, his time visiting with his Brother-my father was very meaningful. He has passed, and my siblings all feel the better for it. So I understand the fear about having someone so dangerous being set free. At the same time, I do not support capital punishment. I have friends who were found guilty thru newspapers and the news of a crime they were not charged with, who committed suicide as a response. My neighbors are all spending time for DUI's and drug possession- incarceration would not be my go to punishment. These are places where we can work with in the community to support and uplift those individuals.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>My constituents could help by keeping me informed on these issues, or sharing bills that I could be part of. Thank you for allowing me to participate in this questionnaire. These are important issues.</p>