

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



Dave Pinto
Running for MN
House District 64B

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

he/him/his | www.davepinto.com

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>	
<p>Police Issues</p>	
<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>A wide variety of reforms, not only to policing but to the criminal legal system more generally, are needed. A good roadmap would include many of the reforms that my House DFL colleagues and I have been pushing for the last few years. I've deferred especially to my colleagues of color in leading this work; most important is that the process be driven by community needs and input.</p>
<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>Law enforcement budgets are funded and set at the city or county level. But the state can influence the process. We should think about funding for community safety from a holistic perspective. What will contribute to keeping communities safe? That means investing in housing, mental health, supportive services, and much more – rather than thinking that safety comes simply from police, prosecutors, or courts.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	
<p>Criminal Court Issues</p>	
<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,</p>	

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?

Incarceration Issues

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?

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?

* 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?

These issues have a significant impact on my constituents and are so important. People experiencing incarceration deserve to be treated with dignity. Their family members deserve the same. Keeping in touch with loved ones who are incarcerated can help keep families stable, moving forward, and ready to welcome their family members back when they return.

* 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?

They should be counted where they last lived before being incarcerated. A basic principle is that people should be counted where their home is. The place where someone is incarcerated is not their home.

<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</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>Most people who experience incarceration leave it sooner or later. We all have an interest in their success when they do so. The best way to ensure that success is to support their community ties while they are gone and to support their reintegration and stake in our community when they return.</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>I'm having a hard time thinking of any public health crisis that doesn't have an inequitable impact on people involved in the criminal legal system. The first step is to acknowledge and call out these inequities. And then we need to listen to the people and communities affected by them to understand what to do about them – and then commit the attention and funding to follow through. You can count on me to continue to do so.</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</p>	<p>Thanks for asking. These issues are particularly important to me because of my work outside of the Legislature. I became a prosecutor (in Ramsey County) because I wanted to help vulnerable people, especially people experiencing gender or family violence. I've specialized in prosecuting domestic violence involving children, as well as sexual exploitation and sex trafficking; I've worked with victim / survivors to train</p>

<p>impact your priorities and/or stances?</p>	<p>thousands of officers and others to identify and respond to sex trafficking. In the course of this work, I've become ever more aware of the differential impact of the criminal legal system on communities – especially communities of color – and the ways that policies and practices in that system can make everyone less safe. I feel a particular responsibility to work to change that.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>Please be in contact with me! Email is usually best, but there are many other ways. And work with groups like Second Chance Coalition. I want continue to work in partnership with you.</p>