

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



**Heather Bakke
Running for MN
House District 18B**

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she/her/hers | <https://www.bakke2020.com/>

Public Safety Issues

<p>Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I feel safe in my community but I know that not all Minnesotans feel this way. I support restructuring police departments. Things need to change.</p>
<p>What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?</p>	<p>To make a community safe people need the resources to support their families and loved ones. We need fully funded schools, fully funded mental health services, and access to housing and food. When people don’t have to struggle to survive the police will not be as busy.</p>
<p>What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?</p>	<p>My district is in greater Minnesota and while our crime rates are low, I know we can do better when it comes to racial profiling. In Gaylord there is a officer who pulls over more Latina people.</p>

How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?	We need to address racism to make our communities great again.
What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?	Work for justice and peace.

Police Issues

What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	When I see Trump supporters I see their comfort with racist ideas and a commitment to keeping black and brown people as subordinates. When I see police unions supporting Trump I see their commitment to racism. This is the new Jim Crow and it needs to change.
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	More money for counselors not cops. We need to start putting money into communities and stop arming the police department like an army.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	More money for community policing. Get some arbitrators to examine police union contracts. It isn't a union when union busters don't want to bust your union.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	More funding for counselors. Fully funding public schools to stop the school to prison pipeline.

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?	The system is rigged. Black Lives Matter!
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	It's expensive to be poor. The system criminalizes poor people. You can't pay your tabs, you get a ticket, you can't pay the ticket, you get your license revoked, you need to go to work so you keep driving and then you get a ticket for driving with a revoked license, it spirals out of control. We need to fix this.

<p>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>	
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>The purpose of incarceration should be to punish people for misdeeds but if you are rich and powerful you don't seem to have to pay the price for your crime.</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 need to fully education especially preschool and early childhood education. When children have opportunities they aren't forced into lose lose situations.</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>Again it is an issue of funding. None of these things happen without funding.</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>I would need to be educated on this issue.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	<p>I would be willing to help with issues that we're brought to me.</p>

Reentry Issues

* 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?

If you don't have support how are you supposed to get back on your feet?

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?

I don't know any specifics but I would welcome guidance from your organization to support reintegration.

Public Health Issues

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?

We need to treat all people with humanity.

* 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?

Covid hurts people of color at a higher rate. We need to give funding to Health organizations who work with communities of color.

Personal Connections

* 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?

I want to be an ally and am willing to listen.

How can your constituents support you in accomplishing

My constituents may not be interested but I will work to get them to join me.

any changes you've outlined here?