

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Senate District 42

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he/him/his | [IsaacsonforSD42.com](http://IsaacsonforSD42.com)

## Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?	To a degree, there is a lot of white privilege
What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?	A community where all people feel safe enough to live in and live the best version of their lives.
What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?	The suburbs tend to be rather hands off in terms of activism. There is probably a real lack of awareness around the barriers privilege creates for diverse populations. There is also a stark

How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?	divide between the hard core Trump people and those who seek social justice.
What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?	Embracing full service schools. Training the local and county police on how to handle homelessness, people with diagnosis like autism, and other "social services" emergencies outside the scope of crime and punishment.

**Police Issues**

What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	There is always an opportunity for our local law enforcement to improve their culture around profilings and being part of the solution to our social issues.
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	Trainings on how to handle incidents with people who have mental health issues. Trainings on how to de-escalate non-violently. Diversify local law enforcement in both racial backgrounds and how we approach homelessness, domestic abuse, and how we find help for minors that are in trouble.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	Focus some resources on the training and hiring of personnel that can provide wider supports to the community needs.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	I have supported the POCI caucus efforts in the state house and senate, following the lead of Senator Hayden and others.

**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?	I need to learn more about this issue. I am committed to helping change the issues of inequities in the judicial system.
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	I am happy to champion and support reforms that will have a positive impact on issue above.

<p>Minnesotans. Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	
<b>Incarceration Issues</b>	
<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>I am a strong believer in rehabilitation rather than retribution. Our current prison model is punitive, racists, and does not provide rehabilitation opportunities we need to help people find their way back to society.</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 very interested in learning more about this and how I might help move our state in that direction.</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>It would be vitally important for us to give those incarcerated more opportunities to find a better life.</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>This is an interesting question. I would need to learn more about this issue to speak on it.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	<p>Anything around helping kids avoid being caught up in our criminal justice system.</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?

We need to provide the resources needed for every person upon re-entry to give them the best chance at success.

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?

Change the felon voting law to allow anyone who is out of prison to vote. We need to provide educational and vocational resources as well as mental health/addiction resources to help each person find their way to a better life.

## Public Health Issues

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

I need more information on this issue to speak on this issue.

\* 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?

I would like to learn more and find out how I can help.

## 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 am happy to discuss this over the phone or in person.

How can your constituents support you in accomplishing

Having active constituents engaged would be vital in making significant culture changes in our society.

any changes you've outlined here?