

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN  
House District 23B**

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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>Live and play, yes. Safety of my family is important and I would not choose to live or play in an area which wasn't safe. Working in St Paul brings more challenges as there is a lot of crime, frequent shootings, and frequent protests around the Capitol.</p>
<p>What does the phrase "public safety" mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?</p>	<p>Public safety means the protection of citizens. This is accomplished through a rule of law and functioning police and fire departments. Where law ends, tyranny begins and public safety erodes. We must keep the rule of law enforced.</p>
<p>What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?</p>	<p>My district overwhelmingly supports public safety and the officers that enforce the law and serve the public. There are certainly diverse opinions around what is happening in the</p>

How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?	metro, but that does not have a significant impact here. I do hear from constituents who believe some police departments hand out too many minor traffic tickets or hire too many officers.
What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?	Violence is not as large an issue as non-violent crimes like drug use and drug trafficking. We need to continue to partner with State and Federal authorities to address drug trafficking.

**Police Issues**

What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	All decisions should be local. Stop with overregulating our police. Reforms, if desired by the community, should happen locally and not at the State level.
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	Supporting our police would be a good start.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	One reform which I do support is ending civil asset forfeiture and it is important to ensure the State can fill this gap in funding as many departments rely on confiscating cars and cash as part of their budget.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	Ending civil asset forfeiture, is a bill I have co-authored. I also support data privacy and requiring warrants for the police to purchase user data from google, apple and social media platforms. I also support privacy protections around drone use. As for our day to day policing reforms, we need these decisions to be local.

**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 have not been made aware of significant inequities. I believe the courts did have significant issues with parole terms, but Blue Earth County has implemented a maximum 5 year parole policy.
Diving into topics like bail, services for crime survivors, court fines and fees, special prosecutors, and sentencing and probation guidelines can	I'm open to learning more, but have not researched the bills impacts on the district.

<p>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?</p> <p>What are they and why?</p>	
<p><b>Incarceration Issues</b></p>	
<p>In your opinion, what is the purpose of incarceration?</p> <p>Do you believe that incarceration accomplishes those purposes well?</p> <p>If not, why not, and what would you do about it?</p>	<p>Incarceration serves three purposes. 1. Penalty for the crime. 2. protecting the public 3. rehabilitation of the criminal for re-entry of society.</p> <p>Not all sentences serve all three purposes.</p>
<p>What do you know about alternatives to incarceration and how they address violence and other undesirable or criminalized behavior?</p> <p>What incarceration alternatives do you support and why?</p>	<p>I am a strong supporter of veteran's court and drug court. I also have championed the decriminalization of mental illness. We have too many people in prison who suffer from mental illness and incarceration in normal prisons is not the proper sentence. I chief authored "Cassy's Law" which passed the house this year. It addressed sentencing reform for people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder or traumatic brain injuries.</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 imagine there is and always will be a desire to have more freedom and services while 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 incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they had their last residential address? Or something else? Why?</p>	<p>This would depend on the source of funding for incarcerated individuals. Their residency should be tied most closely to their funding source.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that</p>	<p>I will continue to author sentencing reform legislation and am open to learning more about incarceration and probation reforms, and the impacts they will have on our district.</p>

<p>you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	
<p><b>Reentry Issues</b></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 have not heard of specific needs other than restoring the right to vote.</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>None proposed.</p>
<p><b>Public Health Issues</b></p>	
<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>Sufficient response.</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>Public health crisis impact everyone. Confinement and lockdowns have less of an impact on those incarcerated than those who have not lost their individual liberty.</p>
<p><b>Personal Connections</b></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 have family members who have been incarcerated and I have spent time with veterans who went through the veterans court program. I have also worked with the family of a woman with TBI who has spent a year in solitary confinement.</p>

How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?

I am open to hearing more impacts and learning about which judicial reform legislation would benefit the district and the State. It is important to hear from all sides, not just the incarcerated, but from the victims, the police, the guards, and employees of the court. Only if we listen to all parties involved, can we work together to improve our criminal justice system.