

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN  
Senate District 12**

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

<https://jillformnsenate12.wixsite.com/jill4mnsenate12>

## Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play?  
Why or why not?

I feel safe in my own community of Sauk centre. The police are well-trained and response time admirable. Not every community in MNSenDis12 feels the same. People of color and those of Latino decent are often subject to racial profiling. Information I have learned from being involved with the Stearns County Domestic Abuse Intervention Program as a course moderator.

What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you?  
What builds safety? What detracts from it?

Public safety involves safeguarding a community from crime as well as natural or even man-made disasters. Building public safety would include partnering with other community services; EMT/community ed programs and medical services disaster plans.

<p>What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district? How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?</p>	<p>Since the population is aging and my district is largely homogenous it hold very traditional viewpoints on public safety. Many believe in swift authoritative justice with heavy fines and long jail times. As our society becomes more enlightened on restorative justice programs and recognizing the extra burden placed on a community when offenders are taken away from family and no longer able to provide-perhaps we can move past a demand for the authoritative trend in public safety. The greatest fear among my constituents is a reoccurrence of rioting in Mpls that could take place in our rural communities. While that seems far from likely, it is a real fear and it will take strong leadership to calm these fears and explains what we all need to work together to bridge cross-cultural and socio-economic gaps. That we can build on what currently divides us to help end racism.</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>Fortunately MNSen12 doesn't have a fraction of the violence found in urban areas of MN. I would like to build on that reputation by implementing programs and services that would further reduce criminal activity.</p>
<p><b>Police Issues</b></p>	
<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>Most police departments in my district have a rather outdated approach in that they are quick to deploy, use force and make arrests. This is especially true if they encounter someone with a prior record, persons or color or are experiencing mental health crisis. I am confident, however, that change will come.</p>
<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I believe that although growing rural diversity needs to be addressed, the police departments currently have an inability to respond adequately to a growing number of police responses requiring knowledge of mental health or social crisis. I would encourage departments to partner with NAMI to create new training rubrics that will allow for more hours of training with mental health partners. I am also interested IN legislating towards programs where a social worker or other service professional to be brought in on calls regarding substance abuse, domestic violence and other issues. Too much of a social position burden has been laid at the foot of our local police - a situation that is fair to none.</p>
<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>At this time in 2020 due to pandemic economic factors and civil unrest this past spring-all budgeting needs complete overhaul to cope with gaping deficit. I do not feel I have any insight to this issue at present.</p>

<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I have followed SF001 Veteran Restorative Justice bill. Tabled earlier this year brought up again for unanimous passing in August as veteran groups contacted senators withholding it. I believe it is still being held for financing. A number of my constituents have asked me to follow closely</p>
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**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>My familiarity with the court system has been through the DVI program and ESL (adult) student issues. The glaring inequity is the inability for non-native English speakers to access fair advocacy to legal issues. I would promote any program or proposition that would help advocate for language inequities as offenders with mental health or social challenges. I believe the bulk of our laws are fair. But fair access to our system is a goal that moves further away with each passing year.</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. Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I have constituents who are concerned with the McNaughton defense (18405) which appears to place the burden of proof on the defendant. I would champion any efforts that would move the burden of proof to the state or at least share the challenge.</p>
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**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>Incarceration is a punitive response to criminal or undesirable behavior. While it removes an offender from the public-there is little rehabilitation motives- a situation which is growing worse as budgets are cut and programs lost.</p>
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<p>What do you know about alternatives to incarceration and how they address violence and other undesirable or criminalized behavior?</p>	<p>In my experience and observations- I find that restitution does not work well for offenders under 14 yo as the parents are either unable or unwilling to pay for their child's offense. a case where law has positive goals but in action further penalizes society, I also support further involving social services (which in themselves need much better funding platforms) to examine</p>
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What incarceration alternatives do you support and why?	what mental health and medical support services can be extended to families in crisis.
* 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?	I believe the biggest issue is providing health care to the incarcerated. An issue so repercussive that it cannot be attempted to be addressed in this questionnaire. I also believe that counselling should be made available to those who request it as 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have some form of serious mental illness (stats from NAIMI) To help rehabilitate the entire person would benefit the community they will return to. So called budget cuts benefit no one.
* 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?	I find this a very import issue. Incarcerated persons should be counted as part of the county they are incarcerated within as they are drawing on tax provided services from food to utilities to health care.
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	To ensure every jail inmate with a mental illness has access to perceptions and is connected to a prescriptive service upon discharge. To require mental health training for wardens

**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?	Often a person returning from incarceration with a felony on their record may find it difficult to get adequate housing and/or employment which leads to financial crisis and homelessness and the pathway to re-offend merely to survive. My constituents would be better protected if the formerly incarcerated were provided my re-entry services.
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?	Currently I am invested in restoring the right for discharged non-offending felons who have served their time and paid restitution to be allowed to vote in the community where they live

**Public Health Issues**

<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	<p>The department of Corrections is responsible for the health and welfare of approx 37,000 inmates statewide. The Minn Dept of Health issued COVID guideline and provided the necessary PPE and testing abilities. Of the 37,791 tests administered to inmates 559 tested positive and were quarantined. As of this report 19 inmates were hospitalized and there were 2 deaths. This is an instance where Department of Correction worked hand in hand with Dept of Health for a positive outcome.</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>My commitment to Mental Health services is fundamental to my campaign and ethical platform. There are currently more mentally ill persons incarcerated than there are those in hospitals. It is a situation forced on corrections by malicious budgeting cuts rather than enlightened public safety and health. This situation creates a climate of fear and mistrust in the elderly constituents of my district and a burden on police and other services. We need to stop incarcerating the mentally ill</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 only know two persons who have had the misfortune to enter the correctional system. I have listened to their observations. I have witness from further far the discussions of domestic violence offenders as they came through our intervention course. In every case I believe strongly that an advocate ( as opposed to a social worker) is badly needed to help navigate the legal processes. With stories too many to tell. The intersection of public safety and public welfare is uppermost in my decision to run for State Office.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>When COVID restrictions are one day removed...I hope for town hall discussions and Q&amp;As at venues such as The Lion's VFW and others to move toward enlightened policing, incarceration and re-entry issues</p>