

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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House District 56B



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Public Safety Issues

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

I do feel safe. I know that the reason that I do is because I am a white suburban mom. I will never have to deal with the targeted scrutiny and threat that black, brown and indigenous men, women and children deal with every day.

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

Public safety should mean that all of us feel welcome and safe in our communities. Unfortunately, far too many very rarely feel safe. Safety is built when community members have a voice in the policies and processes that law enforcement uses in the community. When large numbers of community members are left out of the conversation about what public safety looks like to them, our communities are less safe and inclusive.

<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>As I have been talking to voters, I've found that some are very supportive of law enforcement and concerned about the riots, others continue to be concerned about their and their family's safety, and still others want to see a community that is welcoming and safe for everyone. Many think that showing support for our police officers makes the community safer and others, myself included, think that this is an opportunity to re-imagine community safety and we know that we need all voices heard to achieve that.</p>
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<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>We need to prioritize community led solutions in any course of action we take. And of course ensuring that there is broad representation of the community. I will support efforts and ideas brought forth by the community.</p>
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Police Issues

<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>The police departments here in my district are very different than those in Minneapolis or St. Paul. That being said, there is always a need for holding our institutions accountable and to push for reform.</p>
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<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I would like to see more de-escalation training as well as some sort of committee or task force comprised of community members to innovate around implementing changes that make them feel safer.</p>
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<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I think oversight into ensuring that the funding is actually going towards programs or activities that help make the community safer. Such as funding for trainings, body cams, other ideas that the community comes up with.</p>
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<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I would be happy to support legislation around making all communities safer. I'm so interested to see what is already being worked on in the legislature or what we will build upon being elected. We don't face the same issues here in my district as some communities do, but I support efforts that help all Minnesotans feel safe.</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</p>	<p>I think there are always implicit biases in any institution that we need to address and dismantle. I will support any efforts brought to the legislature that move us towards equity in all things.</p>
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<p>can we count on you to respond to any inequities?</p>	
<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.</p> <p>Are there any bills around criminal court practices that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I am not very well versed on legislation around this issues, I would turn to your organization for information and advice on how to support any efforts being made around these issue and happy to sign onto or author bills that will be helpful.</p>
<p>Incarceration Issues</p>	
<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 think incarceration for some violent crimes is a reasonable outcome. Our justice system is supposed to take a variety of factors into account prior to sentencing but we know that the "justice system" doesn't work the same for everyone. I don't believe that incarceration is the answer for many non-violent crime and I certainly don't believe it is in any way rehabilitative. I would be very interested in working with this organization to learn more about and build various alternatives to incarceration.</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>Admittedly I don't know much but am extremely interested in learning more. I do believe that we need to decriminalize marijuana and release anyone serving time for those offenses. Circumstances such as poverty and abuse for example, are factors in "criminal" behavior. When we address these issues, of if at the very least, we understand these as factors in behavior- we can begin to come up with equitable solutions. People are not disposable, full stop.</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>If we treat people who are incarcerated with dignity, give people access to education opportunities, allow ample visits with families and loved ones-in person or by email or via phone calls, and access to healthcare etc, then upon re-entry, folks are prepared to assimilate back into society healthy and with perhaps less emotional hardships which can only positively affect their post-incarceration behavior.</p>
<p>* For purposes of drawing legislative districts, should incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they</p>	<p>I would think their last residential address.</p>

are incarcerated, or should incarcerated persons be counted as part of the district where they had their last residential address? Or something else? Why?	
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	I would be interested in working with current as well as those of us that will be elected this November on these issues.

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?	I think to deny fair access to affordable housing, employment, healthcare and any of the other things listed above is how society sets up re-entry citizens for failure. Finding solutions so that people have a chance to building a future after being incarcerated is a key part to healthy communities for everyone.
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 would love to learn more about the efforts already being made about this subject.

Public Health Issues

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?	I don't know everything that they did or did not do, but I do know that people died when they didn't have to and that is completely unacceptable.
* 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 think we saw for sure with COVID19 what a public health crisis looks like for those incarcerated and the response to it was completely unacceptable. We need to demand better of our leadership. I am committed to finding equitable solutions and to working together for a just outcome.

Personal Connections

<p>* Are there any ways in which you feel personally connected to issues in policing, criminal court, incarceration, and/or re-entry?</p> <p>What is personal about these issues for you, and how will that impact your priorities and/or stances?</p>	<p>I have friends that are deeply engaged in this work and I have been honored to be able to learn from what they have shared from me. I have so much more to learn however and look forward to working with this organization to fight for change and make progress on these issues for all those affected.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>I hope that they will come to know that I am open to ideas that they have on how to ensure that our community feels welcome and safe and inclusive and that my door is open and I welcome all conversations.</p>