

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN
House District 42A

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

she/her/hers | <https://votekellymoller.com/>

Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?	
What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?	
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?	
What changes do you think would help prevent violence and other undesirable behavior in your district? How will you go about making those changes?	

Police Issues

What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?	
* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	I supported our Police Accountability Bill that we passed during special session and that was led by members of our POCI (People of Color and Indigenous) Caucus. It included a prohibition on chokeholds and warrior-style training, a duty to intercede and to report when another officer is using excessive force, a change in the arbitration process, some changes to the POST Board, investigation by the BCA of officer-involved deaths and to receive the reports of use of force by local agencies, training on mental health and autism, tools for first responders to deal with their own mental health, and a change in the standard regarding the use of deadly force. One area that we should continue to work on includes licensing standards through the POST Board. Unlike most boards that license professionals (nurses, teachers, lawyers, etc.), the POST Board does not have enough authority to handle discipline surrounding a peace officer license.
* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.	I'm interested in more robust mental health funding in many systems in the state -- starting in schools and including for those who are incarcerated or involved in the criminal justice system. I'm very interested in co-responder models where mental health professionals are involved in calls involving a mental health event. We also need to make sure people get the kind of mental health and chemical dependency treatment they need.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	

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>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>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>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>* 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>Rehabilitation is an important part of the criminal justice system and it is lacking in so many ways. We need to help people with the tools they need to be successful. Rehabilitation is prevention. It helps not only the person who is in the system, but it improves public safety. We also need to think about how to better support children who have incarcerated parents.</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>People who are incarcerated should not be counted as residents of the city they are incarcerated in because it unfairly inflates the population of those communities.</p>
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<p>Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?</p>	
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Reentry Issues

<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>Providing supportive services to people returning to community reduces recidivism and makes everyone safer. A person who has been released from incarceration has paid their debt to society and should not suffer lifetime barriers that make it difficult for them to be successful. I also support the restoration of voting rights. It's not only a matter of dignity, but also of fairness - those who are released are still citizens and paying taxes on income and goods just like everyone else.</p>
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<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>	
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Public Health Issues

<p>What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?</p>	
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<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>People who are involved in the system have higher rates of health problems, mental illness and chemical dependency issues. As mentioned previously, I think mental health treatment is critical to both helping people and decreasing recidivism. We also need to look at the mental health impacts of children of parents who are incarcerated and of those who are victims of violent crime.</p>
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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?

This issue is personal because, as a prosecutor, I'm part of the system. Our criminal system has too many inequities, especially for people of color. All people want to be safe in their communities and they want to be treated fairly. If people don't have trust in the system, then the system doesn't work; victims won't report crime, witnesses won't cooperate, and juries might acquit based on that distrust. Public safety and criminal justice system reform are not mutually exclusive. Reform of an inequitable system enhances public safety.

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