

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



Liz Boldon
Running for MN
House District 25B



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she/her/hers | lizboldon.com

Public Safety Issues

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

For the most part, I do feel safe in my community. Rochester is a wonderful community and I'm privileged to live in a neighborhood where I feel safe and I have all the resources I need. I am aware of the risk of gun violence anywhere, however, which is one of the reasons I'm supportive of common sense measures like universal criminal background checks and red flag laws, like the vast majority of other Minnesotans.

What does the phrase "public safety" mean to you?

Public safety, to me, means that everyone (the public) is safe from harm - harm from any source. I believe communities and people caring about one another builds

<p>What builds safety? What detracts from it?</p>	<p>this, people having the resources they need, access to information and the ability to care for themselves and others. I believe things that detract from public safety include people, any individual or group, who i harm others, either intentionally or unintentionally, whether that be through direct violence, or by creating an environment that is unsafe for others.</p>
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<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>I've been working hard to build relationships and create connections with a diverse range of people across my district. What I hear from some people is that they feel safe, but they know that others in our community do not. Specific to policing, I'm hearing from minority communities that they do not always feel safe and protected. There are certainly opportunities to listen, learn and take action to ensure we have systems in place that are equitable and free from disparities that currently exist.</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>I believe violence and undesirable behavior is often caused by a lack of resources, or inability for that person to meet their needs. I believe if we take action to fight for affordable housing, living wages, paid family leave, healthcare for all, lower prescription drug costs, common sense gun measures and other policies that ensure everyone is cared for and safe, we would see a decline in violence. I will be a bold voice for putting these policies into action.</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>I believe the police department in my community is open listening to the community and making changes to reduce inequities. I believe there is room to improve to reduce racial biases and disparities but that there are actions that can be taken to improve this.</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'm fully supportive of the policing reform proposed by the POCI Caucus in the 2020 special legislative session. I support banning choke holds, requiring more transparency and sharing of data on disciplinary actions, banning warrior training, and eliminating qualified immunity.</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 support transitioning some funding from police budgets to other supportive roles such as social workers and crisis workers. While there are certainly times when it is needed, many incidents are not best served by someone trained in</p>
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	violence arriving with a gun, Taser and baton. Having appropriate resources for every situation would benefit the LEOs as well as the public.
Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?	I support the Reimagining Public Safety Act, Reclaiming Community Oversight Act, and the Reforming Accountability Act. I believe we should be following the leadership of the POCI Caucus on this issue and ensuring all Minnesotans are safe and cared for is my top priority.

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 believe there are inequities in the criminal justice system and my community is not immune to that. I am fully committed to fighting racial disparities in all systems and working with the organizations and individuals who are experts in this and have been doing this work for many years.
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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?	I am not aware of any current bills around this but am very open to exploring and supporting this.
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Incarceration Issues

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?	I believe incarceration is intended to be punishment for a crime. It has become big business, however and I am absolutely against for-profit prisons. We should not be incarcerating people for low-level, non-violent offenses. We should not be incarcerating children and introducing them into the criminal justice system. There should be restrictions on solitary confinement. We should eliminate cash bail. No one should remain incarcerated simply because they are poor. We should be practicing restorative justice and working to support people to meet their needs. We have deep rooted racial disparities in our criminal
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	justice system that need to be addressed. I will be an advocate for that and work with groups and experts who have been doing this work.
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?	As mentioned above, I support restorative justice and believe we should be supporting people to meet their needs.
* 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?	People in my district are absolutely affected by issues like those mentioned above. Everyone should have access to quality healthcare, this is especially worrisome in our current Covid times. The expense of traveling to visits, sending care packages, making phonecalls and ensuring their loved ones have what they need while incarcerated can be great. This causes a great deal of stress, worry and hardship for many families.
* 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 believe incarcerated persons should be counted as part of the district of their "home" residence. Doing otherwise allocates resources inappropriately and disproportionately out of communities of color.
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	I'm not aware of any current bills around this but am very open to learning more about this and fighting to make change. Minnesota has extremely long probation periods, this is something that needs to change and is disproportionately affecting communities of color.

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	People returning from incarceration should have access to resources to help them reintegrate into their community They deserve equal access to housing, employment, healthcare, and all other resources just as much as everyone else. Ensuring they have what they need to be safe and cared for is best for them and the rest of the community.
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voting or civic engagement affect your constituents?	
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 like to see increased investments into re-entry supports; this is what's best for the individuals as well as the community.

Public Health Issues

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?	I 100% agree that racism is a public health crisis. The MN Legislature should recognize this as well and take appropriate action (the House has done this, the Senate has not.) As a nurse, I've been very concerned about the risk of Covid-19 to those who are incarcerated. In speaking to families who have loved ones incarcerated in my community, I'm hearing that appropriate steps are being taken to mitigate the risks as much as possible, for which I'm grateful.
* 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?	As I mentioned above, I believe racism is a public health crisis. I also believe poverty is a public health crisis. We can take action both of these and I'm committed to do so.

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 have had family members incarcerated and I have had some limited experience with what it feels like to have a loved one in this situation. I have compassion for all affected by this. Additionally, as a mother to three bi-racial children, I know the fear for my children and their risk of police brutality or discrimination because of the color of their skin. I am fully committed to fighting racism in all forms and eliminating racial disparities and inequities in all systems.
How can your constituents support you in accomplishing	I'm working to build relationships and connections to constituents across my district. I encourage everyone to

any changes you've outlined here?

reach out to me to have a conversation to share their experiences, thoughts, questions and concerns. I'm learning and value the perspective of others.