

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN
House District 23A

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

Public Safety Issues	
Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?	I do feel safe in my community. I live in rural MN and although I have seen increasing problems, I feel safe because I limit going out after dark. Really makes it a stark reality that life is changing
What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?	Public safety means Law Enforcement and Fire Officers working together to keep our environment safe. Vigilance on changing situations and monitoring our communities is critical. Trust builds safety as well as appropriate numbers of officers to keep us safe. Anger, violence, hostility and racism detract from public safety

<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 have heard very little regarding opinions regarding public safety, except that there is support for our Law Enforcement. This also depends on who you speak with.</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>I would like to see a drug task force and open communication between officers and the community. I hear very little about that. I would like to meet with officers and find out what they need to make this happen. A community liaison officer would be ideal.</p> <p>We need to have community sharing time, where all people can come together and discuss concerns. I would be happy to host those forums.</p>

Police Issues

<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>Overall, I think the culture in our police department is fair and honest. However, I have never been arrested. I noted in our town paper, a report on someone arrested and it said "this person was known to police because of previous interaction", this caused me pause.</p>
<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I would like to discuss MN POST. I believe this should be called the MN Board of Law Enforcement and they should have more ability to solve the problems with police officers, manage complaints/concerns of MN Citizens, and the Board should be expanded to represent all areas of the State of MN. I believe routing citizen complaints to the local precinct prevents complete and thorough investigation. I also think some citizens might not report concerns for fear of retaliation. I do not support defunding the police. I believe in reforming their practices.</p>
<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>We must make sure that LGA is available to all cities in the state.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>As I said above, I would like to establish the MN Board of Law Enforcement.</p> <p>I would support no choke hold, limiting violence, and officer training to decrease racism and understand mental health problems. I know there are more opportunities for change. I want to make decisions based on information from all parties affected by policing</p>

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?

If there are inequities, I believe it lies in representation for the victims. I would be happy to respond to any problems should they be presented to me.

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 would be very interested in learning more about sentencing and probation guidelines. I see variances on that. I would need more information about criminal court practices so I could respond to problems.

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?

The current purpose of incarceration is to remove a person from a state of freedom to confinement. I was hopeful, in the past, that it was done to rehabilitate the person. I find that is not happening in all cases. I believe we need to give our prison system more support and training. I would also like to know how we are promoting rehabilitation in the system. There has been so much violence in our prison system, it seems we have much work to do

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?

Probation, supervised. Community Service, supervised. Fines (which may or may not be the answer because of financial impact). Home detention monitoring with frequent mentoring attached.

We can't simply incarcerate everyone, we must try to help them in other ways.

* 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,

Confinement limits the opportunity for people to access all of the above. I don't know many jail systems that allow access to emails. There are limited visitation times and phone calls times. Isolation lends poorly to them and certainly is a problem to our people with mental health problems. This is an area we must address. It is a growing problem

education, and other programming while incarcerated affect your constituents?	
* 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 they should be counted as part of the district of their last know residence. I would assume, although I know not always, this is their permanent address. Although, with the increasing homeless population, they would never be represented. Much food for thought
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	I would join in the effort to help those with mental health problems, they simply cannot help themselves. I also feel that there is significant problems with racial disparity regarding incarceration

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?	<p>Finding supportive sources for our people returning to their districts after incarceration is very difficult. If they don't have a supportive family unit, they can become lost in the system. I would like to see well thought out plans for them and the arrangement of health care, including mental health support, jobs and housing in a safe area.</p> <p>What happens to our youth who are incarcerated? How can they possibly be rehabilitated? We must search to solve the problem that brought them into our criminal system. Most will need to be placed with a family that has resources to assure we are meeting the needs of the child. This is an area I would like to know more about</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?	I would like to review our current re-entry policies. If needed, I would support re-entry programs.

Public Health Issues

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?	<p>There are many layers to their process. It really could take a long time to allow incarcerated people to be released.</p> <p>As with all facilities, response times were slower than needed</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>I do not think we respond quick enough to mental health problems/crises, abuse within the system and providing legal assistance.</p>
<p>Personal Connections</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 am very worried about violence, racial inequality, and inappropriate incarceration. I feel a lack of inclusiveness in our State right now. I would like to stand up and support better communities, safety, and help people make their lives better. This can be done if we communicate, collaborate, and listen to others. After the murder of George Floyd, I became personally connected. We cannot let this violence and racism continue. I am not afraid to walk down a street; why? Because I am female and white, that in itself made it personal to me. I am a Nurse Practitioner and care for people regardless of color, race, or sexual orientation. We must change our trajectory, if not the "issues" will continue to threaten all of us</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>My constituents can understand and believe the problems. I know there are those who do and I will seek their support and ideas.</p>