

# MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



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Running for MN  
Senate District 25



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[flickforsenate.com](http://flickforsenate.com)

## Public Safety Issues

Do you feel safe in the communities where you live, work, and play? Why or why not?	Yes - I feel safe in my community. I believe those in my community want safety and security.
What does the phrase “public safety” mean to you? What builds safety? What detracts from it?	For me, public safety is a lack of crime. To build that, we need to make sure that people have access to the resources they need to thrive. When people struggle to find work, housing, childcare and healthcare, crime rates rise.
What is your understanding of the diversity of opinions around public safety in your district?	There are mixed feelings within the community. I do think there is a recognition that we need to find ways to move beyond punitive forms of punishment and give people the

<p>How do your constituents think about what builds safety and what detracts from it in your district?</p>	<p>pathways they need to succeed. Most believe that we need to reduce inequities, particularly in education.</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 think affordable housing and access to jobs is important. We have a lot of wealth in our community, but it doesn't trickle down to everyone. As a senator, I'm committed to working on reducing the sources of crime, such as homelessness and lack of job opportunities. I have already worked with many advocates for the homelessness community here, and believe we need to clear pathways that prevent individuals from obtaining housing--such as having a valid form of identification or the inability to rent due to old misdemeanors.</p>

**Police Issues**

<p>What are your thoughts on the general culture of the police departments in your district?</p>	<p>Overall, I think law enforcement here understand the need to improve their listening and cultural competency with various groups, though many of those groups do not feel as though they are being heard.</p>
<p>* What police reforms, if any, do you think would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I think at the state level, we should look at the terminology in the law around deadly use of force. We need to make it easier to punish those who abuse their authority.</p>
<p>* What changes to police budgets, if any, would help your district or the state? Please elaborate.</p>	<p>I'd like to see more investment in social programs and mental health, rather than continuing to increase police budgets.</p>
<p>Are there any bills around policing that you would join or champion? What are they and why?</p>	<p>I'm supportive of the recently signed police accountability bill, though I believe injustice goes well beyond law enforcement and we need to work to eliminate inequities in our systems, particularly that in our education systems.</p>

**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>Yes, certainly. I have heard directly from folks who have had difficulty with the criminal justice system here. I believe we need to do away with mandatory minimums and make it easier for those who have made mistakes to reenter society, not continue to kick them through criminalization of outstanding court fees, etc.</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.</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 familiar with specific bills being proposed in this area right now out of session, but in general, I would be supportive of legislation that helps reduce the punitive downward cycle we place many individuals in our communities in.</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>I believe the purpose of incarceration should be rehabilitation. Our current system is too punitive. I want to make sure that anyone who ends up in our legal system has an equal and fair chance to get out.</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>I support programs such as community service, work release, rehabilitation programs, etc. I believe it's important to work with individuals to better understand what in their life is causing them to break the law, rather than just punish them for it.</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>I need to learn more about the exact experiences of those who are being incarcerated currently. I have talked to some who have previously been in the system. I believe we should afford people dignity while they are incarcerated, including the programs and amenities mentioned here.</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?</p>	<p>Of course incarcerated persons should be counted. I'm inclined to say that incarcerated individuals should be counted at their last residential address. We do not want to give communities incentives to incarcerate more individuals. And, I believe incarcerated individuals should have representation where they live, work and play.</p>

Or something else? Why?	
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	I would favor bills that reduce incarceration times and then do not continue to punish individuals for that time served. (i.e. Restrictions on what can be justified for not renting to an individual.)

**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?	We make it so difficult for individuals who have been incarcerated to re-enter our society. Renting is one issue that I am particularly interested in solving.
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?	We need more diverse caseworkers and social workers who are accessible to our community. I believe there is only one Muslim addiction specialist in my district, for example. We need to make these programs more readily available.

**Public Health Issues**

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?	I believe the outbreaks in St. Cloud are tragic and more should have been done to avoid them. I believe upon the outbreak, all non violent offenders should have been released.
* 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?	We do not provide adequate care to those who are incarcerated. I'd like to see more funding provided specifically for healthcare of those in the system.

**Personal Connections**

* Are there any ways in which you feel personally connected to issues in policing, criminal	In high school, I worked for a judge. It always struck me how the county prosecutors seemed really friendly with the judge. I saw firsthand how these relationships can alter
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<p>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>how the criminal justice system works. Our system of justice should not be based on who knows who, but how the law can be applied equally for everyone.</p>
<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>The first step is to get elected, and then to continue to pressure me and other representatives to move on these issues. There will be a LOT to tackle in 2021, and I am committed to doing everything that I can and I believe in holding myself accountable and would welcome my constituents to do the same.</p>