

MNSCC Candidate Questionnaire



Tamara "Tami"
Calhoun
Running for MN
House District 14A



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www.TamiForMN.com

Public Safety Issues

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

Yes. I know and talk with my neighbors. I frequent the same stores, so I build a familiar relationship.

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

It means that I feel safe and trust walking down the street. Relationships with people, with systems of business, systems of government, systems of health and law enforcement builds safety. Anger, unlawful actions, breaking trust and breaking relationships detracts 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>These are excellent, thought-provoking questions. Though I feel safe in my community because of my statements above, I can easily imagine someone who does not have trust in those relationships and systems would feel very unsafe. St. Cloud Community Policing Agreement and the current work on Stearn's County Community Sheriff's Agreement have built relationships of trust in my community. There is still work to do, but the conversations and relationships are already built. We need to keep talking and listening. This builds safety. Not talking or listening detracts from safety.</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>As stated previously, the St. Cloud Community Policing Agreement and the Stearn's County Community Sheriff's Agreement work. I am a signer to the 2018 Police agreement and am currently working together on the Sheriff's agreement. Relationships!</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>Good. Because of our Community Policing Agreement in 2018, the St. Cloud Police department has implemented several programs in which they partner with CentraCare mental health professionals. Our Police have also partnered with the county court system to help people experiencing homelessness with established monthly court times available, if needed, for people experiencing homelessness. This eliminates unintended missed court appearances because of lack of addresses for communication.</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>Police partnering with mental health professionals; partnering with homeless shelters; partnering with youth programs, partnering with the many cultural organizations in the St. Cloud area.</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 do not know the police budget in St. Cloud, so I cannot comment on that. I do believe that more money invested in programs such as mental health, education, early childhood/parent education, teen health would at least double our savings. Studies show that money in early, pays more dividends then on the late end. Education and prevention. Let's put our dollars there.</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>Bills which partner police with mental health professionals. Bills which partner our police with teen programs.</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 can we count on you to respond to any inequities?</p>	<p>I have not noticed inequities in the courts in my district. If there are inequities, I would like to know about them. I have worked with our Latino population, our Somali population and our black community with concerns of jail and arrest inequities, but I have not heard them mention court 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>Again, I am not familiar with this area. I would need research this. On a quick search, most postings are dated in the 1990's.</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>Incarceration should be a time for reflection, education and reform. Preparing the person for reenter into the community should be the goal.</p> <p>I have talked with some educators, ministers and guards who work at the St. Cloud reformatory, it seems that they are focused on reflection, education, reform and preparedness.</p> <p>If the incarceration is focused on punishment, I do not believe this is effective. If the incarceration is focused on making money, this is definitely ineffective to preparing someone for reentry to the community. For-profit prisons should be stopped.</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 do not know much. I did hear of a system in Iceland, I believe, in which prisoners were in unlocked living pods. I don't remember all of the specifics, but a focus on counseling, education was a key factor.</p>
<p>* Every district in Minnesota is home to people who have experienced incarceration. How do you think issues like access to health care,</p>	<p>Hugely! I believe that treating a person humanely, discovering what care is needed for the individual to make safe and healthy choices is essential.</p>

visits/phone calls/emails, 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?	Good question. Complicated. I believe it may depend on the length of incarcerated stay. Since they deserve representation, this factor should be decided upon.
Are there any bills around incarceration or probation that you would join or champion? Which ones and why?	I would join bills which promote education, counseling, mental health education and professional help, drug rehabilitation and reentry into society.

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 believe when a person has been released and has served his/her time, they should not be asked for their criminal history. I believe it should be illegal for this question to be on any forms for housing, employment, voting or civic engagement. I believe access to health care, recovery resources, mental health supports and basic needs should be provided for them. The more support we can give people released from incarceration, the less likely a person is to return.
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?	No reporting required of incarceration or criminal history. Investments into education, health care, mental health, job training, housing training (how do you take care of your own home). The more money put into re-entry supports, the less money spent on recidivism.

Public Health Issues

What are your thoughts about how the Department of Corrections has responded to the coronavirus pandemic?	I cannot answer this fully. I do know that there are a number of cases recently at the St. Cloud Reformatory. Part of it to do with lack of barriers between prisoners and staff. I do not know what procedures were in place to protect prisoners and staff before the outbreak and what procedures are in place now. I believe the prison system should be under the same guidelines as other institutions in the state. I would have to talk to prisoners and prison staff before I were to vote on legislation on this.
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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>The criminal legal system should be protecting people the same way other institutions or businesses are protecting their workers.</p>
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Personal Connections

<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>My personal connection is through the St. Cloud Community Policing Agreement, the Stearn's County Community Sheriff's Agreement and, when I was a teacher at Talahi Elementary School, some of my student's parents were incarcerated in the St. Cloud Reformatory.</p>
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<p>How can your constituents support you in accomplishing any changes you've outlined here?</p>	<p>By telling me their stories and allowing me to listen. Giving me research information.</p>
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