

2020

## **CANDIDATE CONNECTION**

Cynthia Lonquist completed [Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection](#) survey in 2020. The survey questions appear in bold and are followed by Lonquist's responses. Candidates are asked three required questions for this survey, but they may answer additional optional questions as well.

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### **Who are you? Tell us about yourself.**

A lifelong Minnesotan, daughter of WWII Vet, Single Mom, Grandmother of six I'm invested in this community. I love Minnesota; beautiful lakes, environment; excellent healthcare. But Minnesota is also known as one of the "worst places to do business in the country", and one of the "worst places to retire". We're taxing business and residents so high that they're leaving state. Post COVID-19 we can no longer afford to be driving business and residents out of here; we need them! I will work to revise MN tax policies to ATTRACT business, jobs and residents. We also need our dedicated Law Enforcement community and they deserve our support. Sept. 11 Police Officers and Firefighters rushed into burning buildings to save their fellow citizens of every race, color & creed. Over 400 of them never came home that night. With rare exception Police Officers risk their lives every day to protect us and many will die in the line of duty. Join me to make Minnesota one of the BEST and safest places to live, work and retire.

### **Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?**

- Post COVID-19 Recovery: It is time to remove the Emergency Order that has shuttered private business, closed Churches and kept children out of school. Protecting the most vulnerable, high-risk people can be done without impacting the entire state economy and sacrificing children's education.
- Minnesotans deserve to feel safe in their homes, communities and places of work; Law Enforcement is key to keeping the peace. Defunding and demonizing Police is not a solution; they deserve our support and respect.
- As Americans, we all enjoy Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness . Life begins at conception and it is time for Minnesota to protect our unborn brothers and sisters and discontinue the Holocaust of abortion.

### **What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?**

I am passionate about revising our tax rates for corporations, making Minnesota at least competitive with surrounding states. This will stop the exodus of businesses leaving state. Our current tax policies are counter-productive; rather than getting 30% of something, we get 100% of nothing when they leave state.

I also am passionate about being a good steward of everything we've been blessed with; life, the

environment, and our financial resources. If the people of my District elect me to represent them at the Capitol in St. Paul, I will be a good steward of everything entrusted to me.

**Who do you look up to? Whose example would you like to follow, and why?**

I look up to Martin Luther King, Jr. as a leader in the civil rights movement. He never advocated violence, and I believe that is why he is so greatly revered. My favorite quote from Dr. King; "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

**What characteristics or principles are most important for an elected official?**

Integrity, competence and accountability.

**What qualities do you possess that you believe would make you a successful officeholder?**

Integrity; competence; common sense.

**What do you believe are the core responsibilities for someone elected to this office?**

To be devoted to do the work of the people of your District; representing your Constituents at the Capitol in St. Paul. To work responsibly with other Legislators and the Governor, in good faith.

**What legacy would you like to leave?**

Faithfulness

**What is the first historical event that happened in your lifetime that you remember? How old were you at the time?**

Dating myself; President Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, the day of my 6th birthday Party. From a large family, we did not get a Birthday Party every year, only one year - and this was mine. One by one the guests cancelled, of course. That day is still very vivid in my mind. I often thought of Caroline, who is the same age as me. We lost our President that day, she lost her father.

**What was your very first job? How long did you have it?**

At age 15 I landed my first job at the local Dairy Queen. I worked there one year, and continued to work to this day. Among the Positions I've held; Waitress, Retail Clerk, Music Teacher and Performer, Technology Sales, Business Owner and Uber Driver. I value all my experiences and believe I have the background to relate to my Constituents from all walks of life.

**What is your favorite book? Why?**

365 Days; because it told the story (of the Vietnam War) from a different perspective - that of a Medic.

**What was the last song that got stuck in your head?**

Crowder's "Come as you are"

**What is something that has been a struggle in your life?**

Taking on too much.

**Every state besides Nebraska has two legislative chambers. What do you consider the most important differences between the legislative chambers in your state?**

With 67 Senators and 134 Representatives, I consider more "hashing out" of Legislative business to happen at the Representative level before proceeding to Senate.

**Do you believe that it's beneficial for state legislators to have previous experience in government or politics?**

Not necessarily. While it helps to know how the levers of government work, a perspective from outside of Government or politics can be tremendously valuable as well.

**What do you perceive to be your state's greatest challenges over the next decade?**

Transforming Minnesota's business climate will be our greatest challenge over the next decade.

**What do you believe is the ideal relationship between the governor and the state legislature?**

Ideally, there should be respect between the governor and state legislature.

**Do you believe it's beneficial to build relationships with other legislators? Please explain your answer.**

I believe it is beneficial to build relationships with other legislators because you must know them, talk with them, hear their viewpoint and share yours if you ultimately want to win them over and accomplish something.

**What process do you favor for redistricting?**

Geographical by population, using natural boundaries such as cities, counties, rivers.

**If you are not a current legislator, are there certain committees that you would want to be a part of?**

I would like to be part of an Environmental committee, Healthcare, or Commerce committees.

**Both sitting legislators and candidates for office hear many personal stories from the residents of their district. Is there a story that you've heard that you found particularly touching, memorable, or impactful?**

I met a Husband and Wife who both recently retired from their careers in Social Services. They talked about when they first began their work (Child Protection and Social Worker), the goal was to help people in their time of need and get them (back) to a place of self-sufficiency in society. They expressed dismay that over time that goal was lost, in favor of long-term dependency on "the system". This takes away the pride and dignity of able-bodied citizens. This does not serve them well, is expensive for other citizens who pay for these services via taxes. When someone is physically or mentally disabled and unable to provide for themselves, out of humaneness we as a society need to provide for their safety and well-being, But all who are able to provide for themselves should be encouraged to do so.