

# BLACK LIVES MATTER B-TOWN 2019 PRIMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

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In April 2019 all primary candidates received a questionnaire covering issues vitally important to the black community's health and well-being. Black Lives Matter has evaluated and rated each candidate's responses for voters. Below is the BLM 2019 Primary Questionnaire.

1. Bloomington finds itself in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. How will you ensure more affordable housing in spite of city government's mandate to maintain higher housing prices for tax revenue? Do you support density housing with priority to people of color, people making under \$30,000 a year, families with dependents, and people with disabilities? Specifically, please discuss non-student housing.

2. Students of color in Bloomington experience disproportionate rates of detention, suspension, and expulsion. Please share with us any knowledge or data you have about suspension and detention rates of students of color in Bloomington. To the best of your knowledge, how does this problem contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline? Would you support a city-based initiative focused on anti-bias training for faculty, staff, and administration at MCCSC?

- According to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, "black students are suspended and expelled at a rate three times greater than white students. On average, 5% of white students are suspended, compared to 16% of black students."  
(<https://ocrdata.ed.gov/downloads/crdc-school-discipline-snapshot.pdf>)

3. How do you define privilege? How has privilege impacted decisions you have made as an elected official, or if you are running for the first time, as an engaged community member? If you are elected, how will you use your privilege to assist black and brown communities?

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2019 Primary Questionnaire continued

4. In a “Strong Mayor” state, the Office of the Mayor has very broad administrative authority. If elected, how will you ensure that the checks and balances system is preserved, especially with respect to the budget? If the Mayor’s office implements a policy that is potentially harmful to people of color, how will City Council use their authority to curb or stop this policy?

5. To the best of your knowledge, describe why people of color are disproportionately targeted and arrested by the criminal justice system. What ideas do you have to make the justice system more equitable and impartial? What concerns do you have about the militarization of our police force? Name a specific issue in our community relating to the militarization of the police and how you have or would respond to it.

6. Would you support establishing a 311 number that connected people to emergency services and local organizations trained in handling crisis situations rather than the police? What should be done with individuals who make false reports to the police based on racial profiling or prejudice?

7. Describe a society in which there are no prisons. How does that justice system differ from ours? What other aspects of culture would be different in a society without prisons?

8. What does restorative justice look like to you? What programs focused on restorative justice do you support or would you support as an elected official? How?