

Justice For Massachusetts 2022 DA Candidate Questionnaire

Justice for Massachusetts is a wide coalition of community organizations and progressive political action organizations across the Commonwealth that have come together to run joint endorsement and political work on District Attorney races. Our member organizations represent directly impacted communities and their allies. Please note that this questionnaire will be shared initially only within our movement but following endorsement will be made public.

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In 2022, it is clearer than ever that our criminal legal system is damaging the lives and life chances of individuals and communities, especially individuals and communities of color. It is doing so at the expense of real community safety and at huge expense in public resources. Big change is needed if we are to have a system that truly serves justice. We believe DAs have a central role to play in making that change happen--both in setting policies for prosecution and in advocating for laws to reform our criminal legal system.

The following sections will be made public following endorsement:

General Questions

1. What experience do you have that will prepare you to reshape the criminal legal system through the DA's office?

My vast professional experience will help me to reshape the criminal legal system through the DA's office. I am a black man who has been working in the criminal legal system for over 25 years, and I have seen firsthand where the system both achieves and fails to keep our community safe. My career started where I am now, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office where I was an ADA for over 11 years and most notably served as Chief of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative. I also spent over 5 years as a criminal defense attorney in private practice including the representation of indigent clients through the Committee for Public Counsel Services. I have seen 1st hand how the system disproportionately impacts black and brown people. I am committed to making our community safer, and I believe that my experience will help me to make positive change in the DA's office and our criminal legal system while also maintaining public safety.

0. What is your philosophy of community safety and justice and the role of the DA in delivering on this vision?

I believe in a community that is safe for all its citizens and that seeks true justice for all. I have seen firsthand how the criminal justice system can fail people of color at every stage, from disproportionate contact with law enforcement to bias in sentencing. My experience has taught me that we need reform in order to create a safer, more just community for everyone. As District Attorney, I will work tirelessly to promote safety and justice for all. I will work with law enforcement to build trust between them and the communities they serve. I will review cases with an eye towards fairness and equity. And I will seek out alternatives to incarceration that keep our community safe while also providing offenders with opportunities to turn their lives around. It is my sincere hope that, through my work as DA, we can move closer to the vision of a safe and just community for all.

0. What would your three top priorities be for your first term as District Attorney?

If I were elected District Attorney, my top three priorities would be justice, reform and safety. Justice is essential for both the victims of crime and the accused. Victims need to know that the justice system is working for them, and the accused need to know that they will receive a fair trial. Reform is also essential, because the criminal justice system is far from perfect. There are disparities in sentencing, incarceration rates and police interactions that need to be addressed. Safety is my third priority, because it is essential for both the individuals who live in our community and those in every sphere of our government who are sworn to serve and protect. We need to find ways to reduce crime while also ensuring that everyone feels safe. My professional experience has taught me that these three priorities are essential for making our community safer and fairer for everyone.

0. Name two current or former DAs whom you most admire for their approach to the office, and why?

While I think we have had many great DA's in Suffolk County I would say the two I admired the most would be Ralph Martin and Rachel Rollins.

Ralph was a barrier breaker as the first black man ever to be elected District Attorney. I had the honor of working with him for many years and saw first hand his commitment to not only keeping our communities safe but also ensuring that the system worked for everyone.

Like Ralph, Rachel broke barriers in her own right to become the first woman of color to be elected District Attorney. Throughout her tenure she fought to advance needed reforms and was willing to stand up for what she knew to be right, sometimes in the face of strong opposition.

If elected I hope to follow both of their examples.

0. What is the size of the largest office or staff you have managed? What managerial experience do you have that makes you qualified to lead the office you are seeking?

I began my career in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office where I served for over eleven years across various units, including most notably as Chief of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative. As Chief of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative I worked collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to lead on critical violence prevention programs, intervention initiatives for at-risk youth, services for victims and witnesses, and programs for citizens returning from incarceration. I also served as Assistant District Attorney for the Anti-Gang Unit, the Homicide Response Team, the Juvenile Unit and for the Boston Municipal Court.

After leaving the DA's office I worked as a criminal defense attorney, representing so many clients from marginalized communities, helping them to navigate the complex and sometimes unjust criminal legal system. Later, I was appointed as Chairperson of the Commonwealth's Sex Offender Registry Board, where I led the agency in various capacities for over eight years and worked collaboratively across state government to ensure the successful completion of the Board's mission and duties to classify offenders and make information available to the public. There I managed an entire state agency of approximately 60 employees including its legal staff and Board. Now, I currently serve as the District Attorney for Suffolk County and manage an entire staff of almost 300 employees, including approximately 170 attorneys.

0. Prison and jail populations are declining, many in the prison population are of advanced age and ailing, and some of our prisons are in terrible condition. Recent lawsuits and investigative reports have shown that people in state DOC custody are being neglected and abused. Reports from MassINC show that the number of people in state custody has plummeted while funding to DOC has increased. Should prison and jail funding be reduced? Redeployed? Are you in favor of a prison and jail construction moratorium?

Mass incarceration is one of the most pressing issues of our time. For too long, our justice system has been biased against black and brown people, resulting in a staggering number of young men behind bars. Legal reform is desperately needed, but it will require a significant investment of resources. I believe that we should reduce funding for prisons and jails, and instead invest in programs that will make our communities safer. We also need to provide support for formerly incarcerated people so

that they can reintegrate into society and contribute to the economy. Only by taking these steps will we be able to create a legal system that is truly just. I am in favor of a prison and jail construction moratorium.

0. Recognizing that DAs have no direct power over DOC or the state budget, what changes in the prison/HOC system would you like to see? What changes would advance your mission?

I would like to see a number of changes in the prison/HOC system in order to advance my mission. First and foremost, I believe that every person, including those who are incarcerated, deserve the same rights. That means that people who have been incarcerated should have access to fair and equitable treatment, regardless of the color of their skin, their socio-economic status, or any other factor. Second, I believe that prisons should be places of reform, not punishment. People should be given the opportunity to turn their lives around while they are incarcerated, and they should be released back into society with the skills and support they need to be successful. Finally, I believe that safety is paramount. The safety of staff, inmates, and the community should be the top priority in any prison or HOC setting.

I have seen firsthand what can happen when these principles are not upheld. During my time as DA for Suffolk County, I worked with a number of individuals who had been incarcerated at the county jail. I saw how the conditions there could contribute to recidivism, rather than reform. I also saw how racial disparities could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of people. That is why I am committed to working towards a prison/HOC system that is just, reformed, and safe.

0. What is your view on the legacy of the War on Drugs, and how will you use your office to rectify the intergenerational impact of these policies and disrupt ongoing continuation of the War on Drugs?

I believe that the War on Drugs has had a devastating impact on our communities, and I am committed to using my office to rectify the intergenerational damage that these policies have caused. For too long, our legal system has been stacked against people of color, and the War on Drugs has only made this problem worse. I will use my platform to push for reform at the state and federal level, with the goal of making our legal system more equitable. I will also work to increase public safety by investing in programs that provide resources and support to communities most affected by crime and ensure that those struggling with addiction receive the treatment they need.

My professional experience has taught me the importance of building strong relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and I will work to create these bonds to create a safer environment for everyone. The War on Drugs

has inflicted immense harm on our communities, but I am hopeful that we can begin to heal these wounds by working together to create a fairer and more just society.

0. In your first term, do you commit to making your staff reflective of the racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic characteristics of your county? Do you commit to hiring staff that speak the multiple languages that are spoken in your county?

Justice cannot be fully realized in our society until our public institutions reflect the demographics of the communities they serve. To that end, I am committed to hiring a staff that is reflective of the racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic characteristics of my county. For me, this work has already begun and I am proud to have currently assembled the most diverse executive staff in the history of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Furthermore, I recognize that many members of our community speak multiple languages, and I am committed to making sure that they have access to staff who can communicate with them in their native language. Justice is not a one-time event; it is an ongoing process. My administration will be committed to ensuring that our public institutions are just and equitable for all. We will work tirelessly to create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone in our community. This is not only the right thing to do; it is also the best way to ensure that our public institutions are effective and efficient. Justice is something that we must all strive for, every day. In hiring a diverse and representative staff, we are taking an important step towards making our public institutions places where everyone can feel safe, valued, and respected.

0. What efforts will you take to increase language access for immigrants beyond the right to a court interpreter? What will you do to reduce language barriers between your staff and the witnesses, victims, and others they serve or interact with?

Making sure that everyone in our justice system has access to an interpreter is essential to ensuring fairness and equity. But providing language access is about more than just complying with the law. It's also about making sure that our legal system meets the needs of everyone in our communities.

I have seen firsthand how language barriers can impact safety, justice, and reform efforts. That's why I am committed to taking steps to increase language access for immigrants beyond the right to a court interpreter. I will work to reduce language barriers between my staff and the witnesses, victims, and others they serve or interact with. This will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in our justice system and that we can all work together to keep our communities safe.

0. What will you do to ensure that the community stays up to date on the changes you have made as District Attorney? How do you propose that the community should hold you accountable for the commitments you make during your campaign?

As district attorney, my top priority will be to ensure that justice is served in our communities. I will work tirelessly to reform our criminal justice system so that it is fair and equitable for all. I will also prioritize the safety of our communities and use my professional experience to develop innovative strategies to reduce crime and keep our citizens safe.

To ensure that the community stays up to date on the changes I have made as district attorney, I will hold town hall meetings and meet with community leaders on a regular basis. In addition, transparency and clarity on our on-line and digital platforms are always provided.

Alternatives to prosecution and incarceration:

1. What specific types of programs will you implement or expand to deal with issues of mental illness? Please give examples of programs in other jurisdictions that you would seek to replicate or adapt.

I have seen firsthand, through my professional experience, how our current system fails those suffering from mental illness. This must change, and that is exactly what my administration is doing with our Services over Sentences Program that directed \$400k to link those suffering from substance abuse and mental health diagnosis with the care they need. I will also work with stakeholders across the state to develop and implement specific programs aimed at addressing mental illness in our justice system. I will continue to build on our programs that have seen success such as Boston's Mental Health and Drug Court. We must do better by those suffering from mental illness who come into contact with our criminal legal system.

0. What steps will you take to minimize the involvement of youth in the criminal legal system? How will you address disparities among municipalities across the district in handling school-related incidents involving students?

We must always be vigilant in best practices and advancements to minimize the involvement of youth in the criminal legal system. Our Juvenile Alternative Resolution Program (JAR) used continually in our juvenile court has proven extremely successful with a more than 80% success rate both in terms program completion and recidivism reduction. I will work closely with local law enforcement and school officials to ensure

that school-related incidents are handled in a way that promotes safety and maximizes opportunities for positive outcomes for students. I will also provide training for prosecutors on how to fairly and effectively handle cases involving juveniles. I believe that these steps will help to reduce disparities among municipalities across the district in handling these types of cases.

I am confident in my ability to make this happen based on my professional experience as the former Chief of Safe Neighborhood initiative that worked on critical violence prevention programs and initiatives for at-risk youth. I have successfully handled many cases involving juveniles. In addition, I have been working closely with youth in the community for many years through my work with Youth Options Unlimited, a workforce development organization that works with young people, who are court-involved or gang-affiliated, reentering the community from incarceration, or seeking a refuge from poverty or violence, where I am board chairman.

0. What role, if any, do you think there is for SROs and the police in our schools? What changes, if any, would you advocate for?

The role of SROs in our schools has come under scrutiny in recent years, and there is no easy answer. On the one hand, SROs can provide a valuable presence, deterring crime and promoting safety. They can also build positive relationships with students, providing a trust-worthy adult figure that students can go to with problems. On the other hand, SROs can also contribute to a feeling of fear and oppression in schools, particularly for students of color. Specifically, we need to ensure that SROs are adequately trained in de-escalation techniques and cultural competence. We also need to create clear guidelines governing when and how SROs should get involved in disciplinary situations. Only by making these changes will we be able to create safe and welcoming learning environments for all students.

0. How do you plan to implement the new law protecting student confidentiality? What additional steps would you take, if any, to limit the disclosure of information about students to law enforcement?

Justice demands that school-based law enforcement have a positive and constructive relationship with the student body. Student safety should always be the paramount concern when interacting with law enforcement. Consequently, it is essential that any steps taken to implement the new law protecting student confidentiality also take into consideration the need to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

As a professional who has worked extensively with our youth in schools, and a father, I have seen first-hand the importance of having positive relationships between students and school-based law enforcement. I have also seen how these relationships can be

negatively impacted when information about students is shared inappropriately with law enforcement. It is my hope that the new law will strike a balance between protecting student confidentiality and ensuring student safety.

I would encourage schools to develop policies and procedures that limit the disclosure of information about students to law enforcement. Furthermore, I believe it is important for schools to provide training for staff on how to appropriately respond to law enforcement inquiries. Lastly, I believe that it is critical for schools to involve students in the development of policies and procedures related to student confidentiality. By taking these additional steps, we can help ensure that student confidentiality is protected while also maintaining a safe and secure learning environment.

0. Will you commit to diverting or dismissing all simple possession drug cases? What are your beliefs about pretrial services and the role of your office? Which services do you plan to expand or develop?

Prosecutors have a unique role to play in the criminal legal system. We are responsible for ensuring that justice is served, for protecting the safety of our communities, and for bringing about much-needed reform.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to divert simple possession drug cases out of the criminal justice system altogether. Here in Boston, we have been at the forefront of this effort.

I believe that pretrial services play a vital role in ensuring that defendants have every opportunity to succeed in overcoming substance use disorder. That is why I am committed to expanding and developing these services, and that is exactly what my SOS does.

We need to make sure that defendants have access to the resources they need to get their lives back on track, so that they can avoid costly and ineffective incarceration.

0. Do you plan to establish pre-arraignment diversion? If not, what specific steps will you take to create avenues for defendants to be diverted away from criminal prosecution?

Our Office has already established and will continue to provide for pre-arraignment diversion programs that will provide defendants with alternatives to incarceration. These programs will keep non-violent offenders out of jail and save the taxpayers money. I will also work to create avenues for defendants to be diverted away from criminal prosecution altogether. This will allow them to receive the treatment they need and avoid unnecessarily harsh punishments.

0. What percentage of your budget will you commit to establishing and supporting community-vetted alternatives to prosecution?

As a prosecutor, I have always been committed to seeking justice. I have seen firsthand how our current system disproportionately punishes marginalized communities, and I believe that we need to do better. That's why I am committing to spending at least 20% of my budget on establishing and supporting community-vetted alternatives to prosecution. These efforts were such a vital part of the services we provided when I served as Chief of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative.

0. Will you commit to diverting cases for possession of firearm charges in situations where the person charged is not an active shooter, is carrying for personal safety, and is facing a mandatory minimum sentence? If not, under what circumstances would you provide for pre- or post-arraignment diversion?

The diversion of firearm possession cases in the appropriate circumstances is something I have personally done as a prosecutor and will continue to allow for in my office on a case by case basis. These cases are always complex and varied and require close examination, but they do at times warrant the avoidance of a mandatory minimum and diversion.

0. Do you commit to never requesting financial sanctions of any kind as a penalty on people who have been determined to be "indigent" by the court and who are represented by court-appointed counsel? Additionally, if you see the court attempting to impose financial sanctions, including statutorily required fees and fines, will you require your staff to object as a matter of office policy?

I committed to never requesting financial sanctions of any kind as a penalty on people who have been determined to be "indigent" by the court and who are represented by court-appointed counsel. Additionally, if I see the court attempting to impose financial sanctions, including statutorily required fees and fines, I will require my staff to object as a matter of office policy.

Charging/Pre-Trial:

1. Do you support the elimination of cash bail? If not, under what circumstances do you think cash bail is appropriate?

Our bail system is a critical part of ensuring that justice is served. Unfortunately, the current system is deeply flawed, with cash bail disproportionately hurting low-income defendants who cannot afford to pay. This not only creates a two-tiered system of justice, but it also compromises public safety by incentivizing defendants to flee rather than face trial. That's why I could support the right proposal for the elimination of cash bail.

0. Will you commit to looking at disparities in pretrial dangerousness hearings? Under what circumstances would you utilize dangerousness as a designation?

As a justice reform advocate with years of professional experience, I am committed to looking at disparities in pretrial dangerousness hearings. Dangerousness is a designation that should only be utilized in very limited circumstances and when there is a clear and immediate threat to public safety. There is evidence that people of color are more likely to be deemed "dangerous" than their white counterparts, even when they are charged with the same offenses. I am committed to working towards this goal and will continue to advocate for reforms in our court system.

0. Under what circumstances will you call for home confinement?

When home confinement can reasonably assure the safety of the community, those living in the household and the accused, and also assure the accused's appearance in court home confinement may be appropriate.

0. Do you commit to creating a multidisciplinary charging unit including but not limited to members that are public health professionals, substance use and mental health professionals, violence prevention professionals, education professionals, trauma professionals, and other non-legal professionals, to make charging and case-planning decisions alongside prosecutors? In what kinds of cases do you think such a multidisciplinary charging unit is appropriate or inappropriate?

I am creating a multidisciplinary charging unit that includes members from a variety of backgrounds, including public health, substance abuse, mental health, violence prevention, education, and trauma. I believe that such a team is essential in order to make informed decisions about charging and case-planning. This unit would be appropriate for cases involving serious crimes, repeat offenders, and cases with complex circumstances. I am confident that I can help to create such a unit and ensure that it is effective in creating safety and justice in our communities.

0. Under what circumstances, if any, do you believe that a juvenile should be charged as an adult?

Generally speaking I do not think it's difficult to determine if a juvenile should be charged as an adult because the circumstances would need to be extremely extraordinary. The decision must take into account many factors, including age, mitigating factors, the severity of the crime, and the juvenile's prior criminal history. I believe a juvenile should be charged as an adult only in the very rarest of circumstances. In my 25 years of experience I have never seen as case where I believed a juvenile should be charged as an adult, and I'm not sure if I ever will

0. Will you decline to charge contraband-based offenses resulting from pretextual stops—investigatory stops lacking reasonable suspicion or probable cause premised on a civil motor vehicle infraction?

In Boston, we have seen firsthand the harmful effects of overzealous policing, particularly when it comes to contraband-based offenses resulting from pretextual stops. These stops – which are investigatory stops lacking reasonable suspicion or probable cause premised on a civil motor vehicle infraction – disproportionately target communities of color and result in innocent people being needlessly funneled into the criminal justice system. As a black man, like so many before me and still today, I have experienced being pulled over by law enforcement for no other reason than the color of my skin. I am committed to ensuring that these stops are no longer used as a tool of racial oppression and will decline to charge such offenses whenever possible. With over 20 years of experience as a prosecutor, I have the knowledge and experience to ensure that justice is served fairly and equitably in all cases.

0. Do you support eliminating gang databases? If not, what use would your office make of gang databases?

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to eliminate gang databases. The argument that these databases can disproportionately impact people of color and can contain errors is by no means insignificant. There is no question that this system is in real need of reform. When it comes to the gang database we need to increase public transparency, ensure there is an appeals process in place for those listed to apply to be removed, and always have an eye towards instances of racial bias. However, I do believe there is still a place for this system to be used correctly.

0. Do you support expanding the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system for youth past age 17? If so, to what age do you support increasing the jurisdiction of the juvenile system?

The juvenile justice system is designed for rehabilitation rather than punishment for young offenders. But in many states, the age cutoff for the juvenile system is just 16 or 17. That means that thousands of young people are tried as adults every year, even though they may not have the cognitive ability to understand the charges against them or the legal process. Studies have shown that the brain continues to develop into the early twenties, which means that young people aged 18-21 are still growing and changing. I believe that by expanding the juvenile justice system, we can provide better outcomes. Whether I would support raising the age would depend on many needed specifics and details in the legislation.

0. Will your office commit to reducing the number of non-dangerous misdemeanor offenses charged in cases where there is no threat to public safety? What else will your office do to limit unnecessary criminal prosecution for those accused of minor non-dangerous offenses?

As the district attorney of Boston, I am committed to reducing the number of non-dangerous misdemeanor offenses charged in cases where there is no threat to public safety. My office is working to limit unnecessary criminal prosecution for those accused of minor non-dangerous offenses

0. In many cases a minor criminal charge can have devastating immigration consequences. What will you do to work with our immigrant populations to ensure they are not exposed to additional punitive consequences? Would your office commit to considering immigration consequences as part of the prosecution decision? Additionally, what steps would you institute to avoid extreme immigration penalties (i.e., deportation)?

Our legal system must ensure that it is one that equally and fairly protects all members of our community - regardless of their immigration status. The safety and security of Boston and its residents is my top priority. I have seen firsthand how a minor criminal charge can have devastating immigration consequences. I am committed to working with our immigrant populations to ensure they are not exposed to additional punitive consequences. My office will consider immigration consequences as part of the prosecution decision and institute steps to avoid extreme immigration penalties including deportation)

0. Will your office create and share clear policies that detail when and why you will or will not use sentencing enhancements?

Yes. I am proud to say that my office will be creating and sharing clear policies that detail when and why we will or will not use sentencing enhancements. This is critical to ensuring fairness and equity in our legal system.

0. How will you take mandatory minimums into account in charging decisions? In what circumstances will your office avoid pressing charges that carry mandatory minimum sentences?

As a career professional, I have seen firsthand how mandatory minimums can result in inequitable outcomes, particularly for people of color. I will take mandatory minimums into account in charging decisions. I am committed to ensuring that our criminal justice system reflects the values of our community.

0. Do you commit to honoring a plea offer that was made previously in a case for the duration of the case, and pledging not to increase penalties or pursue enhancements if people exercise their right to trial?

Simply put, yes. I pledge to honor all plea offers that are made in my cases, and I will not increase penalties or pursue enhancements if people exercise their right to trial.

0. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office implemented a Decline to Prosecute Policy that included 15 categories of crimes. Do you commit to continuing or adopting a similar policy in your first six months in office? Would you abandon or modify that policy? Why and how?

In Boston, we have made great strides in achieving equity in our criminal justice system, but there is still more work to be done. In my office, the decision to decline to prosecute may extend even beyond the 15 categories of crimes. I am committed to continuing the work of reform and have created similar policies that put investments in prevention, intervention, and re-entry programs. I believe that this comprehensive approach will make our communities safer and our justice system more equitable. My professional experience has taught me that each case must be evaluated on its own merits, and I will continue to approach each case with the same level of scrutiny and care. Ultimately, my goal is to ensure that our legal system is one that upholds the rights of all citizens and promotes public safety.

0. Would you commit to never charge an emerging adult (up to and including age 21) with a charge carrying a mandatory or maximum penalty of life without the possibility of parole?

I am committed to never charging an emerging adult (up to and including age 21) with a charge carrying a mandatory or maximum penalty of life without the possibility of parole. This is consistent with my professional experience, where I have handled cases

involving young adults charged with serious crimes. It is also consistent with my firm belief that our justice system must be fair and equitable. Every case must be considered on its own merits, and offenders must be sentenced according to the facts and circumstances of their individual case. I will continue to work for justice reform in our criminal justice system so that it is fairer and more equitable for all.

0. Do you plan to end the use of statutory enhancements? If not, which enhancements do you plan to use and in which circumstances?

Statutory enhancements must be carefully considered in each case on its merits and only used when they are truly warranted.

Administrative:

1. In many prosecutor's offices, prosecutor performance is measured by their conviction rates. How would you go about creating a culture in which doing justice is esteemed and rewarded and "winning" is devalued as the key criterion of prosecutorial excellence?

Justice is a sacred value that should be upheld by those in the legal profession. Prosecutors play a critical role in the administration of justice and, as such, their actions should be guided by a commitment to fairness and equity. Unfortunately, in many prosecutor's offices, the sole criterion for excellence is conviction rates. This perspective values "winning" above all else and can result in prosecutors making decisions that are not in the best interest of justice. Justice is best served when prosecutors act as impartial professionals who make case-by-case decisions based on the evidence and the law, rather than on a desire to secure a conviction. To create a culture in which doing justice is esteemed and rewarded, prosecutors must be held to high standards of professional conduct and must be held accountable when they fail to meet those standards. In addition, prosecutor's offices should invest in training and education programs that emphasize the importance of fairness and equity. By creating a culture that values justice over winning, we can ensure that prosecutors are better able to serve the needs of the community and keep our streets safe.

0. Will you commit to collecting and sharing data with the public in multiple languages? Would your office commit to collecting and publishing de-identified demographic data (e.g., race, gender and sexual orientation) about who is charged, what they are charged with, whether bail is recommended, whether pre-trial detention (including a "dangerousness" hold or bail revocation) is recommended, what plea is offered, and what the case outcome is?

Justice demands that we not only uphold the law but also ensure that our legal system is fair and equitable for all. In order to achieve this, it is essential that we have access to

accurate data. I am committed to working with my office to collect and share data with the public in multiple languages. We will also collect and publish de-identified demographic data about who is charged, what they are charged with, whether bail is recommended, whether pre-trial detention (including a “dangerousness” hold or bail revocation) is recommended, what plea is offered, and what the case outcome is. It is only by having this information that we can begin to identify patterns and work towards much-needed reform. I am committed to transparency and accountability and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that justice is served in Suffolk County.

0. Do you commit to:

a. creating an open data portal and making raw data accessible to researchers?

As a Suffolk County District Attorney, I am committed to working on creating an open data portal and making raw data accessible to researchers. Justice and reform are difficult without access to reliable data. Our constituents deserve nothing less than our best professional efforts, and that requires using all the information at our disposal.

b. creating a data dashboard for the public showing at minimum case and charge filings, dispositional outcomes, and recidivism (rearrest/reconviction within 3 years)?

Justice is a core value of our society. The criminal justice system is an important mechanism through which we can ensure safety and fairness, but it is not perfect. Through my professional experience in the Suffolk County DA's Office, I have seen firsthand how inequities can play out in the justice system. I am committed to working towards reform and ensuring that justice is done on a case-by-case basis. A data dashboard would be a valuable tool in this effort, as it would help to increase transparency and accountability. The public has a right to know what is happening in their criminal justice system, and this Dashboard would help to provide that information. In addition, the data from the Dashboard could be used to identify patterns and trends, which would help us to more effectively target our reform efforts.

c. pledging to preserve all prior years of paper case files and not destroying any until all of the file jackets and documents inside have been scanned and digitized?

Justice demands that every person's case is heard equitably. Court cases are often complex and sensitive, and each one is unique. As such, it is essential that we maintain all of the paper case files from prior years to ensure that justice is served. The professional experience and knowledge of our Suffolk County court employees are

invaluable assets in preserving these files and they have my full support. I pledge to work with the court to reform our practices and create a safer environment for all by investigating each case individually. This way, we can protect the rights of everyone involved and ensure that justice is served.

- d. sharing data with partner agencies per the 2018 CJR Bill passed by the MA Legislature?

As a public safety professional with over 20 years of experience working in the Suffolk County Justice system, I am committed to the reform and improvement of our criminal justice system. In particular, I believe that data sharing is an essential part of promoting justice and safety in our communities. The 2018 CJR Bill passed by the MA Legislature is a critical step forward in ensuring that data is shared equitably and effectively between agencies. I pledge to do my part in ensuring that data is shared in a way that promotes justice and safety for all. However, I also believe that each case must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure that the rights of all parties are respected. Justice is best served when we work together collaboratively and with respect for each individual case.

- e. lobbying the EOPSS (Executive Office of Public Safety and Security) and the EOTSS (Executive Office of Technology Services and Security) and the Legislature until data is being shared electronically per the statute?

With years of experience in EOPSS I know I will be able to lobby and collaborate effectively with EOPSS and EOTSS and the Legislature until data is being shared electronically per the statute.

- f. committing to bringing in academic research partners to evaluate new and old policies and publish results publicly?

Legal reform is a long-term process that requires the continuous evaluation of old and new policies to ensure that Suffolk County is providing the best possible service to its residents. Legal reform absolutely requires the input of academic research partners to help identify areas where change is needed.

- 0. Will you commit to making the raw data mentioned above available to the public (excluding personally identifying information)?

Justice and reform are essential for the safety of our community. I have seen firsthand how lack of access to information can impact Suffolk's most vulnerable residents. I am committed to making the raw data mentioned above available to the public, excluding personally identifying information, in order to ensure equity on a case by case basis.

Justice requires that we have all the information available so that no one falls through the cracks. Empirical evidence is critical for informing decision making about where to allocate resources for maximum impact. The public has a right to this information and I will do everything in my power to ensure that they get it.

Evidence & Plea Deals:

1. In what circumstances would you encourage a defendant to plea?

I would encourage a defendant to plead when I believe that it is in line with ensuring justice is served. This could be based on the severity of the offense, taking into account the harm caused to victims, and the likelihood of successful rehabilitation and reform. Public safety is also an important consideration. With over 25 years of experience, I have seen how our system can be unfair to marginalized groups, and how this can disproportionately affect people of color. I believe that plea deals should be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all of the relevant factors, in order to ensure that justice is served in each individual case.

0. Would your office commit to an open-file discovery policy that provides defendants with information about their prosecution as early as possible?

Justice demands that the playing field be level. Too often, individuals are prosecuted without having full information about the evidence against them. This can result in wrongful convictions and sentences, which not only cause immense harm to the defendants and their families, but also erode public trust in our criminal justice system. In Suffolk County, we have the opportunity to embrace an open-file discovery policy that would provide defendants with information about their prosecution as early as possible. This would allow them to fully participate in their own defense and ensure that justice is done. I believe that this is the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important reform. Our commitment to justice demands nothing less.

Wage Theft:

1. Wage theft is often left to civil enforcement by attorneys general instead of being prosecuted as theft. Do you think that is appropriate? Why or why not? In what circumstances, if any, would you approve prosecution of employers who do not pay full wages to their employees?

Wage theft is a serious problem that often goes unprosecuted. In many cases, it is left to civil enforcement by attorneys general instead of being pursued as theft.. Wage theft can be difficult to prove, and prosecution can be costly and time-consuming. Moreover, civil enforcement often leads to more effective results, such as back wages being paid to workers and changes in company practices. However, there are some circumstances

in which I would support prosecution of employers who do not pay full wages to their employees. For example, if an employer repeatedly refuses to pay workers their rightful wages, or if an employee is severely underpaid, prosecution may be the best way to achieve justice.

Civil Forfeiture:

0. In what, if any, circumstances will your office seek civil forfeiture?

Justice demands that those who break the law should be held accountable for their actions. But it also demands that the process by which they are held accountable is fair, transparent, and just. That is why, as Suffolk County District Attorney, I have worked to reform our office's civil forfeiture practices.

Civil forfeiture is a powerful tool that can help keep our community safe and ensure that criminals do not profit from their ill-gotten gains. But it must be used judiciously, and only in cases where there is a clear connection between the property to be forfeited and the commission of a crime. Justice requires nothing less.

Our office will continue to use civil forfeiture only in cases where it is clearly warranted, and only after careful consideration of all the relevant facts and circumstances. This is not a one-size-fits-all issue, and each case must be evaluated on its own merits. But my commitment to justice demands that we always err on the side of fairness, equity, and transparency.

0. Do you think it is appropriate for forfeited assets to be given to law enforcement? Why or why not?

In my professional experience, I have seen firsthand how effective asset forfeiture can be in deterring crime and keeping our community safe. However, I also understand that there are concerns about equity and justice when it comes to this practice. Forfeiture laws are an important tool in the fight against crime, but they must be applied fairly and equitably. There are instances where giving assets to law enforcement may be the best course of action - for example, if the funds will be used to improve public safety or support criminal justice reform initiatives. The decision should always be made with great care and consideration.

0. Do you agree to hold yourself to a higher standard for civil asset forfeiture than that required by law, i.e., to increase the standard of seeking forfeiture from a preponderance of evidence to beyond a reasonable doubt, and only after a conviction has occurred in the case in which the office is eligible to seek forfeiture?

As the Suffolk County District Attorney, I have seen firsthand how civil asset forfeiture can be an important tool in the fight against crime. However, I also believe that it is possible to abuse this power, and that we must always strive to ensure that justice is served. For this reason, I agree to seek forfeiture only in cases where there is clear and convincing evidence of criminal activity, and only after a conviction has occurred. This higher standard will help to protect the rights of innocent property owners, while still providing my office with the tools necessary to keep our community safe. In addition, I believe that we must review each case individually, taking into consideration the facts of the case and the impact of forfeiture on all involved parties. Only by taking these steps can we ensure that civil asset forfeiture is used fairly and justly in Suffolk County.

0. If you will continue to seek forfeiture in any case, will you commit to move to seize assets only within 90 days after a conviction in the case, and with sufficient notice to the defendant to be able to contest the forfeiture?

I am committed to moving swiftly to seize assets in cases where there is a conviction. I believe that this is essential for ensuring justice and protecting the public. However, I also believe that defendants should have ample opportunity to contest the forfeiture. As such, I will provide notice to defendants within 90 days of conviction and work with them to ensure that they have a fair chance to contest the forfeiture. This commitment is based on my professional experience as a prosecutor in Suffolk County, where I saw firsthand the importance of equity in the criminal justice system. I believe that each case must be evaluated on its own merits, and I am committed to working tirelessly to ensure that justice is served in every case.

Post-Conviction:

1. Lengthy terms of probation and supervised release can impede a person's successful reentry into society. Do you agree? If so, how would you address the problem? If you do not agree, why not?

Justice looks like people coming out of prison and reentering society and being able to get a job, being able to access housing, being able to be with their families, being able to meaningfully participate in their communities. Justice does not look like lengthy terms of probation and supervised release that can impede a person's successful reentry into society, justice looks like shortened or eliminated altogether. Justice looks like resources given to those exiting the prison system so they have a fair chance at reentering society. Justice looks like reversing the policies and practices that have led to mass incarceration in the first place. Justice looks like reinvesting in communities that have been neglected for years. Justice looks like safety for all, not just safety for some. As a career professional, I have seen firsthand how lengthy terms of probation and supervised release can impede a person's successful reentry into society. I have also seen how case by case decision making can lead to more equitable outcomes. I believe that we need to address the problem of lengthy terms of probation and supervised

release on a case by case basis rather than across the board. This will allow us to take into account the individual circumstances of each case and create a more just outcome

0. What steps will you take to reduce re-incarceration for people who have violated their supervision?

Justice and public safety are not mutually exclusive. Reducing re-incarceration is critical to ensuring that our criminal justice system is both effective and equitable. As a district attorney, I have seen firsthand the enormous toll that incarceration can take on individuals, families, and communities. That is why I have been a strong advocate for justice reform in Suffolk County. We need to do better when it comes to supporting people who are coming out of prison and trying to rebuild their lives. We know that providing education, job training, and substance abuse treatment reduces recidivism and makes our communities safer. And we need to be proactive in identifying risk factors that could lead to someone violating their probation or parole. By working together, we can make our criminal justice system more just and reduce re-incarceration rates in Suffolk County.

0. Parental incarceration is an adverse childhood experience recognized as traumatic for young people by the CDC. Will your office pledge to support primary caretakers motions filed on behalf of defendants with dependent children to prevent sentences to incarceration that fuel generational trauma?

As a district attorney with over two decades of professional experience, I have seen firsthand the impact that parental incarceration can have on young people. Research has shown that parental incarceration is an adverse childhood experience recognized as traumatic by the CDC. This trauma can fuel generational cycles of violence and poverty. I am committed to working with our primary caretakers to break this cycle. I pledge to support motions filed on behalf of defendants with dependent children to prevent sentences to incarceration whenever possible and will advocate for child-sensitive policies and practices in every case. Justice reform is not a one size fits all solution, but rather requires a thoughtful and nuanced approach that takes into account the unique circumstances of each case. By working together, we can create a fairer and more just Suffolk County for all.

0. Prosecutors have a role in supporting or objecting to expungement petitions that otherwise meet all the eligibility criteria of the law. What standards/criteria will you use to support or oppose an otherwise eligible petition?

As prosecutors, we seek justice for crime victims and accountability for those who break the law. A key part of our mission is to ensure public safety. In order to carry out our responsibilities, we have established certain standards and criteria that guide our decision making in each case.

As prosecutors, we review every eligible expungement petition that comes before us. We do so with a keen eye towards ensuring that justice is served and that public safety is not compromised. In Suffolk County, we have developed a professional and consistent process for reviewing these petitions.

We take a number of factors into consideration when making our determination, including the nature of the offense, the offender's criminal history, any relevant mitigating factors, and the impact of the expungement on public safety. We also consider input from law enforcement and victims of crime.

Our ultimate goal is to seek justice in each case while also protecting the community. We approach each petition on a case-by-case basis, taking all relevant information into account in order to reach a fair and just result.

0. Do you agree to conduct a review of all sentences of more than 10 years, including all life sentences, and all sentences where juveniles were charged as adults by your office?

I believe that all defendants have a right to a fair trial, and I will make sure that every case is reviewed thoroughly and fairly. I also believe that our criminal justice system is in need of reform, and I am committed to working towards a system that is more equitable and just. However, I also believe that public safety must be our top priority, and I will not hesitate to prosecute those who pose a danger to our community. I pledge to conduct a review of all sentences of more than 10 years, including all life sentences, and all sentences where juveniles were charged as adults. I believe that this is the best way to ensure that justice is served, and that our community is kept safe.

0. In what, if any circumstances, will your office support an application for parole or clemency in the face of opposition from the victim's family or the community? What factors will you weigh in your decision?

I will only support an application for parole or clemency in the face of opposition from the victim's family or the community if I believe that it is just, and that it will promote reform and safety in Suffolk County. I will weigh my professional experience, the facts of the case, and the interests of justice and equity. Each case is different, and I believe that each deserves to be considered on its own merits. I am committed to working with victims, families, and communities to ensure that everyone feels heard and respected in the process. My goal is to ensure that our justice system is fair, transparent, and accountable to all.

0. What is your position on the [drug lab scandals](#) that occurred in MA? Are you aware of any cases in the office you are seeking that could have been impacted by the misconduct of the two drug lab chemists? What will you do to identify if there are any impacted cases sentenced out of your office, and if so, what measures do you intend to take, if any, to correct any prejudice to the sentenced individuals that may have occurred?

As District Attorney, I am committed to seeking evidence and prosecuting cases in a way that is legal, ethical, and fair. The recent drug lab scandals in Massachusetts have called into question the integrity of the criminal justice system, and I believe it is our responsibility to take action to ensure that these types of problems do not happen again in the future. My office is committed to identifying any cases where individuals may have been sentenced unfairly, and we will take whatever measures are necessary to correct any injustice that has occurred. This is a complex issue, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We will need to approach each case individually in order to determine the best course of action but must ensure that those whom were wrongly convicted be immediately exonerated .

0. What, if anything, will you do to ensure that medical parole is made available to qualifying incarcerated people notwithstanding the opposition of victims' families?

The status quo incarcerates too many people, for too long, with too little hope of release. In some cases - such as when an incarcerated person is terminally ill and could receive medical parole. I have extensive professional experience working with incarcerated people and their families, here in Suffolk County and beyond. I have seen firsthand the devastating effects that lengthy incarceration can have on both the individual and their loved ones. I have also seen the transformation that can occur when an incarcerated person is given a second chance. When done thoughtfully and on a case-by-case basis, medical parole can be an act of justice that keeps our communities safe. Equity demands that we give everyone a fair chance - including those who have made mistakes in the past. By ensuring that medical parole is made available to qualifying incarcerated people, we can help create a fairer and more just society for all.

0. Do you commit to creating a conviction and/or sentencing integrity unit to review past cases for misconduct, mistake, and consonance with justice? Will you commit to hiring defense attorneys or civil rights attorneys to lead the work of this unit? Will you ensure that the unit has independent authority from other units in the office, and reports directly to the District Attorney—and otherwise follows best practices identified by the [Mass Bar Association Report](#)?

As District Attorney, I am committed to creating a conviction and sentencing integrity unit. This unit will be responsible for reviewing past cases for misconduct, mistake, and whether or not the sentence handed down was just. I will be hiring experienced defense attorneys and civil rights attorneys to lead this work, because they have the knowledge

and expertise to identify potential problems with past cases. The unit will be independent from other units in the office, and will report directly to me. Suffolk County is a community that deserves safety and equity, and I pledge to do everything in my power to make sure that those are the values that guide my decisions as District Attorney.

Lobbying:

1. How will you use your public and political influence to reduce incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal legal system?

Justice is about more than just punishments and penalties; it's about making things right. And that's why I believe that we need to reduce incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal legal system.

Reform is not always easy, but it is necessary. The Suffolk County criminal legal system is in need of reform, and I will use my public and political influence to make that happen. My professional experience working with individuals who have been involved in the criminal legal system has shown me that there is a need for change. Too often, people of color are disproportionately represented in the prison population, and too often, people with mental illness or addiction are incarcerated instead of getting the treatment they need. This is not justice. This is not equity. And this is not what Suffolk County needs.

I will work tirelessly to ensure that all people who come into contact with the criminal legal system are treated fairly and equitably.

0. Will you support the following State legislative proposals:
 - Ending cash bail? YES
 - Increasing the age at which someone is charged in juvenile court? YES depending on specifics
 - Repealing mandatory minimums? YES
 - Repealing life without parole sentences? YES
 - Opposing the proposal to expand the state's wiretapping statute? NO
 - Supporting the Safe Communities Act (which limits state cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's attacks on immigrants) YES
 - Decriminalizing consensual sex between teenagers close in age? YES
 - Eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement? NO
 - Banning the use of facial surveillance biometric technology by law enforcement? YES
 - Banning no-knock warrants? NO, but severely limiting
 - Expunging all past non-violent cannabis offenses? YES
 - Supporting a prison and jail construction moratorium? YES

- Eliminating technical revocations of parole? YES
- Opposing an expansion of the state's pretrial detention statute? YES
- Broaden prosecutors' post-conviction powers to redress unjust convictions/extreme sentencing? YES
- Limiting overtime by police? YES

0. Key to the integrity of our criminal defense system is the right of defendants to meaningful representation throughout the criminal legal process. Will you advocate for fully funded public defense at the local and state level?

. It is the principle that all people are entitled to equal treatment under the law. This ideal is embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and it forms the foundation of our criminal justice system. The strength of this system depends on the quality of representation that defendants receive. Public defenders play a vital role in ensuring that justice is served. They provide critical advocacy for those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney, and they help to ensure that no one is denied their constitutional right to a fair trial.

I am committed to ensuring that all defendants have access to quality public defense services. In Suffolk County, we have made great strides in improving our public defender program. We have increased funding for training and resources, and we have implemented new initiatives to help ensure that every defendant receives the best possible representation. I will continue to fight for fully funded public defense at the local and state level because I believe that it is essential to preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system.

Police/Government Actor Misconduct:

1. Do you commit to creating a Do Not Call List to keep track of police officers that commit misconduct, and that your office will no longer call to testify at trial or allow to initiate cases, write sworn police reports, testify at pre-trial hearings, etc.?

As the Suffolk County District Attorney, I am committed to ensuring that justice is served in every case. In order to maintain the highest standards of fairness and equity, I will be creating a Do Not Call List of police officers who have been found to have committed misconduct. These officers will no longer be allowed to initiate cases or testify at trial or pretrial hearings. This is an important step in ensuring that our justice system is credible and trusted by the community. I believe that this will help to make our streets safer and help to build trust between the police and the community. However, I want to emphasize that each case will be evaluated on its own merits, and that this list is not meant to be a blanket condemnation of all police officers. We need the cooperation of the police in order to keep our community safe, and I am confident that this measure will help to ensure that justice is served in Suffolk County.

0. Can you commit to a "do-not-mitt" list for jails and prisons that are not providing medical or mental health treatment, or that have had people in their custody die due to their negligence/cruelty? If not, what do you plan to do about these facilities?

Unfortunately, many facilities are failing to provide adequate medical and mental health treatment to their inmates, resulting in preventable deaths and suffering. I am committed to doing what I can to hold these facilities accountable and ensure that they are providing the level of care that their inmates deserve. I have professional experience working in Suffolk County jails, and I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of systemic neglect. In my opinion, each case must be evaluated on its own merits, but there must be a presumption in favor of equity and justice. I believe that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their circumstances. My hope is that by shining a light on these issues, we can bring about the necessary changes to make our prisons safer for everyone involved.

0. Are there any other sanctions that you will commit to to attempt to prevent police officers from committing misconduct?

0.

Justice must be served when police officers commit misconduct. This is essential not only for the safety of the public, but also to ensure that equity is maintained within our society. In my professional experience, I have seen firsthand how a lack of accountability can lead to a culture of impunity, where misconduct goes unchecked and innocent people are put at risk. Suffolk County is committed to justice, and we will continue to pursue reform in order to prevent future misconduct. However, it is important to remember that each case is unique, and that any sanction must be tailored to the specific situation. We cannot hope to achieve true justice without taking an individualized approach.

0. When it is determined that certain law enforcement officers have committed serious misconduct or criminal activity in past or present cases, do you commit to reviewing all cases previously or subsequently handled by those officers? What do you plan to do with the cases you identify, if anything? Would you initiate a sentinel event review?

Justice must be served, and public safety is always the priority. There can be no room for misconduct or criminal activity in any case, past or present. If it is determined that certain law enforcement officers have committed serious misconduct or criminal activity, I commit to reviewing all cases previously or subsequently handled by those officers. I will take action on a case by case basis, as each case deserves a thorough and objective review. If necessary, I will initiate a sentinel event review in order to identify

any systemic problems that may have contributed to the misconduct or criminal activity. My experience as a prosecutor has shown me that justice must be served fairly and equitably, without fear or favor. That is my commitment to the people of Suffolk County.

0. Will your office commit to using independent prosecutors to investigate cases of alleged police misconduct and brutality?

We cannot have one set of rules for the average person and another set of rules for those who are sworn to serve and protect us. We cannot allow a few bad apples to ruin the reputations of the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. Suffolk County is committed to justice reform, and we will use independent prosecutors to investigate cases of alleged police misconduct and brutality. This will ensure that each case is handled impartially, with the goal of achieving justice for all parties involved. We believe that this is the best way to ensure equity and fairness, and to rebuild trust between the police and the communities they serve.

0. Do you pledge to refuse all campaign contributions from members of law enforcement?

I do not pledge to refuse all campaign contributions from members of law enforcement. Justice and reform are two of the most important issues facing our country today, and I believe that we need to work together to find solutions that will make our communities safer. As a career professional, I have seen firsthand the dedication and professionalism of the men and women who work in law enforcement, and I know that they play an essential role in keeping our communities safe. However, I also understand that there is a need for reform in order to ensure that all members of our community are treated fairly and equitably. I believe that this is an issue that we need to address on a case-by-case basis, and I am open to listening to all perspectives on this issue. Ultimately, my goal is to create a system of justice that is fair and equitable for all.