



The What A Difference a DA Makes (WADADAM) voter education campaign is a network of more than 600 Massachusetts organizations and individuals dedicated to highlighting the life-changing impact district attorneys (DAs) have on our communities and our entire Commonwealth.

Voters have spoken loud and clear: our criminal legal system is not working. Instead of focusing on rehabilitation and helping our neighbors become productive members of our communities, our criminal legal system measures success by how many people are behind bars.

As a network, we are committed to ensuring that all Massachusetts voters have the information they need to decide which DA candidate will best help build a criminal legal system that promotes safety, fairness, and justice.

Candidate Name: Donna Patalano

Email: JoinDonna4DA@gmail.com

Website: www.donna4da.com

Facebook URL: facebook.com/DonnaPatalanoForDA/

Twitter Handle: @Donna4DA

Instagram Handle: @DonnaPatalano

GENERAL

1.) Please describe your qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate to reform the role of district attorney.

The key difference in this race is experience. I began my career in healthcare management. I've been a prosecutor and I've worked as a defense attorney, and I'm the past chair of the Board of Bar Overseers. In the Suffolk County DA's office, I served as the Chief of Professional Integrity & Ethics. I built the first Conviction Integrity Unit in Massachusetts and trained hundreds of prosecutors, not to get a conviction at any cost, but to approach every case in the furtherance of justice. As a defense attorney, I protected the constitutional rights of people who couldn't afford an attorney, both in the state and federal courts. Over the course of my career, I've been counsel of record for 120 cases in the Appeals Court and two dozen cases in the Supreme Judicial Court. I have had the opportunity to lead with my values and understand the powerful ways a District Attorney can create positive systemic change. I didn't pursue any of my career experiences - as a manager, prosecutor, or defense attorney - because I thought I would be privileged enough to run for District Attorney. But I am a better, more effective leader and advocate for criminal justice reform because I've held those perspectives.

In addition to my litigation experience, I had the honor to work as a member of the National District Attorneys' Association Best Practices Committee. I collaborated with prosecutors across the country to develop and share model protocols for responsible and just prosecutions. I've worked closely with law enforcement partners, including at the police academy and on training collaborations to develop interview techniques to mitigate the effects of implicit bias and work toward fair treatment of all suspects. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts appointed me to the Board of Bar Overseers (BBO), the organization responsible for overseeing the ethics and discipline of Massachusetts' 60,000 active attorneys. As Chair of the BBO, I presided over cases where attorneys had been accused of violating their ethical responsibilities. I've had the opportunity to work on policy at the forefront of ethical prosecutions. We need that leadership now to address the broken criminal justice system.

2.) What is your current assessment of your local District Attorney's Office? What are the issues that need the most improvement or transformation?

The incumbent is a life-long prosecutor who has abdicated her responsibility to lead on criminal justice reform. To have meaningful criminal justice reform, we need a District Attorney who is willing to explicitly acknowledge white privilege and address the gross racial disparities in the criminal justice system and who will prioritize improving services for victims and witnesses.

Today, the office does not collect or make publicly available data on prosecutions. There is no way to hold the incumbent accountable for any racial disparity in who is charged, indicted, diverted, dismissed, offered pleas, or brought to trial, because the data is not available. Since the incumbent was appointed in 2013, pretrial incarceration in Middlesex County has doubled, despite an arrest rate that has declined by 35%. This represents a drastic increase that is not happening in any other county. We don't know who is being incarcerated, likely because they are poor and can't afford bail. But we do know incarceration is not a solution and that knowledge is a critical first step to changing the system.

The Drug Court, while an important step toward connecting those with substance misuse issues to treatment, is yet another way in which people of color are treated differently by the incumbent and the criminal justice system. In Massachusetts, drug courts serve white residents at a disproportionate rate (although this information, like most of the data on the criminal justice system, is not released to the public). That means that many people of color never get the opportunity to benefit from one of the few court programs with which people suffering from health problems, who might escape the grip of substance abuse disorder, can be engaged. This must end, but the only chance for this to end is if we shine a light on the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

I am running to be the next Middlesex District Attorney because I believe that meaningful reform addressing the racial disparities that infect the justice system can only happen if the District Attorney leads that change. I will be a District Attorney who acknowledges the disparities and is willing to work towards a justice system that doesn't treat different people differently.

I also will be a District Attorney who prioritizes the protection of victims. Over the last four years, the legislature has allocated \$650,000 for the Victim Witness Fund, available to all DA's. The funds can be used for a range of things to protect to protect victims and witnesses in cases - one common example is changing a person's locks to keep them safe. Over the same time period, Middlesex County has prosecuted 140,000 cases, yet there have been only two claims to the fund - for \$1,900 each. In Suffolk County, I led the training program. One year, we noticed our Victim Witness claims had dipped down to about \$22,000. We realized that our ADAs needed better training to utilize the fund. I created a training program for all line prosecutors about when and how to access these funds, as well as the ethical obligations an ADA would have after receiving funds. The next year, our fund claims went up to about \$88,000. That is how a leader ensures that what little resources are available to some of the most vulnerable folks involved in the criminal justice system are used.

3.) Since the 1980s, the population of incarcerated people in Massachusetts has quadrupled. While the incarcerated population is decreasing, the Commonwealth still faces over-incarceration and a high recidivism rate. If elected, what policies or initiatives do you plan to introduce to further decrease the number of people who are incarcerated and reduce recidivism while keeping the public safe?

First, the post-conviction incarceration rate may be decreasing across the Commonwealth, but the pre-trial incarceration rate in Middlesex County has doubled under the the incumbent. We must not be complacent. As District Attorney, I will work to decrease incarceration on a number of fronts:

Bail Reform. ADAs in my office will not request cash bail on low-level non-violent offenses. The policy will explicitly define the offenses covered and statistics on bail requests and outcomes will be released every six months. I will specifically define the offenses the bail policy pertains to so that the public can hold the office accountable, and so that prosecutors in the courts know how to implement the policy. Prosecutors will also inform judges of the costs of incarcerating a person should they be held. Moreover, I will collect and release data at least every six months on bail requests and outcomes (including race, gender, charges, courthouse, request, outcome, and revocation rates).

Juvenile & Emerging Adult Bureau. I will create a Juvenile & Emerging Adult Bureau bringing together social workers, victim witness advocates, and assistant district attorneys in specialized units. Lawyers and staff will screen every case, and will be trained to understand and utilize evidence

that brain development continues through adolescence and into early adulthood. The Bureau will be made up of four component units to maximize the ability to rehabilitate young people under the age of 25. In addition to prioritizing the use of diversion and restorative justice, the Bureau will collect data at every point of a young person's interaction with the criminal justice system to ensure equity and fairness in prosecutions, and to allow communities to hold the office accountable to those goals. To ensure success, the Bureau will further develop and expand partnerships with community-based organizations, including advocating for the development of a Young Adult Trial Court. Finally, dedicated staff will work with partners to write for grants and dedicate resources to evidence-based programs to reduce recidivism.

Data, Data, Data. Effective innovation is simply impossible to do without the data, including on the equitable use of bail recommendations and plea negotiations. I will work with legislators to fund the technology necessary to establish robust data collection and analysis. I will also collaborate with academic researchers and public policy think tanks to collect and analyze data to objectively draw conclusions to develop equitable and smart prosecutions practices.

4.) Recent Massachusetts data shows that people who suffer from substance use disorder are 120 times more likely to die of an overdose upon release from incarceration than others who are not incarcerated. How do you plan to deal with defendants living with substance use disorder?

The Chapter 55 report was troubling. Former District Attorney Gerry Leone started the Opioid Task Force to support a multi-agency collaboration to address the issues related to the treatment of people with substance abuse disorder. In addition to continuing and expanding the work of the opioid task force, as District Attorney I will focus on the equitable use and expansion of the drug courts.

The review of the data from the drug courts also means the review of outcomes. At the Suffolk County DA's Office, I helped to create the Juvenile Alternate Resolution (JAR) program. Starting in February 2017, with six community-based agencies that provide individualized services to Boston's youth, we partnered with UMass Boston to track the outcomes. Partner agencies accepted juveniles who faced delinquency charges in the Boston Juvenile Court and showed a moderate to high risk of re-offending. Within a year, 45 juveniles had entered the JAR program and received supervision, support, and services through one or more community partner agencies. Of that number, 12 successfully completed the program and 31 are on track to do so.

We need more programs like JAR to ensure that those suffering from substance use disorder are able to access meaningful treatment and that addresses the root cause of the crime. In order to do so, we need to assess the outcomes of programs we utilize to ensure that our investments are making a real difference.

5) With the decline in funding and placements for mental health services, our jails and prisons have become de facto treatment facilities for people living with mental health issues and mental illness. What is your understanding of how district attorneys can improve public safety through mental health treatment? What would you do to increase opportunities for treatment?

Jails and prisons should not be the most accessible treatment site for mental illness, yet sadly that

is far too often the case. Residents shouldn't need to be incarcerated to gain access to treatment. We are privileged in Middlesex County to have leaders like Sheriff Koutoujian and State Senator Friedman, who championed the creation of the Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission to explore innovative approaches to divert folks and connect them with treatment. As DA, I will work with the Commission to ensure that the DA's office is doing everything possible to support that work through how we screen and pursue cases, and how we support victims and witnesses.

As a state, we need to dramatically increase investment in community-based treatment options. This past week, the Senate adopted a budget amendment filed by Senator Friedman to establish a Criminal Justice and Community Support Fund. As DA, I will work with the legislature and advocacy organizations to encourage and support initiatives like this to expand the funding available for evidence-based programming. Using the power of the office to advocate for resources and convene community stakeholders is an important step in providing mental health services. The DA can promote these collaborations across the system to interrupt the cycle of addiction, homelessness, and criminal activity.

Finally, I also will train ADAs and office staff to understand the impacts of mental health issues as a factor on case assessment and recommended dispositions. Part of the training will include understanding what services are available.

6) Public safety has historically relied on outdated language and “tough-on-crime” policies. There is, however, significant research and examples that show restorative justice, diversion, education, and treatment increase public safety. As district attorney, how will you work to change the public’s understanding of how public safety can be achieved?

We need safety paired with social justice in Middlesex County. Over the last seven months on the campaign trail, I have seen that message resonating with residents who are deeply involved in criminal justice reform, as well as people who are considering the power of the DA's office perhaps for the first time. As District Attorney, I will continue to deliver the campaign trail civics lesson. People do understand that the last four decades with a tough-on-crime approach hasn't made us any safer. In fact, they know the recidivism rate remains steady. When we help individuals, especially young adults, through diversion programs, we can help them take steps to be whole again through our justice system.

Relaying the message of how reform will result in improved safety, and how justice is good government, must be at all levels. I will work with high schools and middle schools around Middlesex County to educate students about how they can be involved in their communities and about the responsibilities of the district attorney - with visits from myself, ADAs, and staff. My office will have an accessible website, with easy-to-understand information about the office's policies and programs. Our website will be a useful portal for consumers in the justice system, including victims, witnesses, and defendants.

The recent passage of the criminal justice reform bill and its broad public support indicates that public opinion is shifting toward safety and social justice - now we need a leader to demonstrate the real impact of policies that reflect our shared values. My commitment to collect and release data on both how we are charging people and the outcomes for programming will also be an important step to greater understanding of what works and what doesn't to keep our communities safe.

RACIAL JUSTICE

1) Despite having the lowest incarceration rate in the nation, Massachusetts has one of the highest racial disparities in incarceration rates. Do you believe the District Attorney's Office contributes to racial disparities in the criminal legal system?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please identify the ways in which the policies and practices have contributed, and what you would do as DA to reduce or eliminate them.

Prosecutors make difficult decisions with scarce resources every single day. Mandatory penalties may have offered an inviting shortcut. After decades of "tough-on-crime" policies administered at untold costs to communities of color, we know that mandatory minimums are not the answer.

I will advocate for the repeal of all mandatory sentences and for the adoption of sentencing guidelines. During sentencing, identifying mitigating and aggravating circumstances that affect the disposition must be part of the conversation. We need meaningful sentencing guidelines standardized across the county, particularly because ninety percent of cases are resolved through plea deals. Until sentencing reforms are in place to be used during plea negotiations, I will lead an office of prosecutors trained to approach sentencing ethically and equitably, including an extra level of review where mandatory minimums are charged when lesser charges may apply.

If no, why not?

2) People of color and language minorities are significantly underrepresented in district attorneys' offices. What do you plan to do to increase the diversity of the staff to better reflect the demographics of the community?

Recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining talented attorneys who reflect the diverse communities we serve will be one of my top priorities as District Attorney. It is critically important that we have hiring policies and procedures that minimize the impact of bias, that we work to create a culturally competent workplace, and that we create recruitment practices to ensure we are actively seeking out diverse candidates.

To ensure that we accomplish these goals, I will seek out partnerships with organizations dedicated to diversity and inclusion to assess hiring and recruitment processes and make recommendations on best practices to adopt.

3) Will you commit to collecting, analyzing and reporting data on the race of the people your office prosecutes or advocates for including but not limited to: bail request, recommendations for diversion, charging decisions, sentencing recommendations, motions for civil asset forfeiture, and victim witness assistance funds?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?

TRANSPARENCY

1) The annual reports from the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (MDAA) to the Legislature have been quite low in substance, suggesting differing data collection across Massachusetts and a lack of attention on data quality. What would you do to improve data collection?

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the MDAA to establish norms around data collection and reporting that we can all agree make our communities more safe. The report you reference, for example, is not even available in full to the public. Residents of Massachusetts deserve to know the root cause of the vast racial and socioeconomic disparities in the justice system, and we cannot get there without significantly improved data collection and transparency.

My initial goal would be to collaborate with both colleagues and criminal justice experts to establish statewide norms, with the goal of establishing those reporting requirements by statute. Regardless of the willingness of other offices, I will work to establish partnerships with research organizations and create a model in Middlesex County.

2) Will you agree to consistently collect and make charge and disposition data publicly available - including demographic data such as race, age, and gender?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?

3) Will you regularly share and make available reports on the collection, retention and use of civil asset forfeiture funds?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?

ACCOUNTABILITY

1) From signing police overtime slips for court appearances to investigating police-involved shootings, district attorneys have an important role to play with re-

spect to police accountability. What will you do to ensure that the District Attorney's Office holds police accountable for misconduct?

I will create a Public Integrity Bureau to investigate use of force by law enforcement. The Bureau will review and investigate allegations of police misconduct and use of force, including officer-involved shootings. Through the Bureau, I will implement a defined protocol, that we will make available to the public, for investigating use of force incidents. The Bureau will also be home to our office's Training Unit. The unit will support professional development for ADAs and staff, and our law enforcement partners.

2) According to the National Registry of Exonerations, more than 50 percent of known wrongful convictions involve official misconduct, including the withholding of exculpatory evidence from people charged with crimes. What steps will you take to reform current discovery practices so that people charged with crimes actually have all the information they need to defend themselves?

As DA, I will set an expectation and work to build a culture of transparency and accountability. This extends to a more expansive policy of presumptive discovery for every case. Prosecutors will be trained, and expected, to turn over all material to defendants unless there a legal reason to withhold it. Transparency in the courtroom results in fair and just prosecutions, and is a critical step forward on ensuring prospective conviction integrity. Prosecutors may need to make exceptions for disclosures that could endanger witnesses or compromise on-going investigations, but those exceptions will be applied only with the approval of a supervising attorney not personally involved in prosecuting the case.

3) [For Suffolk and Middlesex candidates only]: The four nationally recognized principles to ensuring an effective Conviction Integrity Unit are independence, flexibility, transparency, and prevention. If elected, what steps will you take to bring the Office's Conviction Integrity Unit's practices in line with these best practices?

I created the Suffolk Conviction Integrity Unit. I developed the Unit after surveying best practices from across the country. There are a few important steps to getting an effective Conviction Integrity Unit running in Middlesex County, starting with access to the program. There should be no barrier to making a request for review, other than a claim of actual innocence. Staff members should include former defense attorneys. The culture supporting ADAs working with the Conviction Integrity Unit will be one that embraces a review of claims not to affirm a conviction, but to ensure that justice was done.

On the office's website, we will create a form to report cases for review. To avoid explicit or implicit bias, any ADAs who previously worked on a case will be precluded from participating in CIU review or deliberations. In my experience, the most important factor to CIU review is adopting a collaborative culture, which means stepping away from the typical adversarial relationships with defense attorneys that are the foundation of prosecutions.

I also will institute prospective conviction integrity, dedicating staff to objectively examine adverse decisions happening today in a formal process. By reviewing daily suppression and dismissal orders, we can track and learn from missteps and near misses to develop concrete guidelines for prosecutors, build targeted training programs, and improve prosecutions now. The goal of meaningful adverse decision review is to build a culture of compliance, one where prosecutors continue to learn and grow and to build their professional judgment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1) Do you support the creation of a community advisory board that would regularly engage with the District Attorney's Office on prosecution priorities, victim needs, community based alternatives to incarceration and other training and office policies?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

2) Please list five community based organizations that you have worked with and/or plan to work with to increase diversion, lower recidivism and/or provide education, training, and treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

1. Justice Resource Institute
2. Communities for Restorative Justice & Our RJ
3. Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership
4. UTEC
5. Lowell House

3) Please list five community based organizations that you have worked with and/or plan to work with to increase support to victims of crimes including but not limited to counseling, relocation or other financial services, and restorative justice opportunities.

1. Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
2. YWCA of Central Massachusetts
3. REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
4. Greater Boston Legal Services
5. Jewish Family & Children's Services

4) Reform movements tend to make lofty assertions about how society or a particular institution must change. Those leading the move for reform, however, often leave out the people most directly impacted. What role do you see formerly incarcerated people playing in your administration and any reforms it will make?

A critical piece of why I am running for this office is the time I spent as a defense attorney. That experience was invaluable when I established our state's first Conviction Integrity Unit. My last case at Suffolk was that of Fred Clay, a man who had been wrongfully imprisoned for 36 years. Fred and I are the same age. As I stood in the courtroom to ask for his conviction to be vacated, I considered the experiences I'd had since I was 16, all experiences Fred had been robbed of.

In the same way that my experiences changed my perspective, I believe it's critical to include those who have been incarcerated in criminal justice reform. I will create a Community Advisory Board,

including formerly incarcerated people, members of different faith and immigrant communities, and other social justice and civil rights organizations involved in criminal justice reform, to provide a comprehensive approach to reviewing and improving the work of the office.

IMMIGRATION

1) Recently, low-level criminal offenses have been used as the basis for deportation proceedings against individuals who, in most instances, have made meaningful contributions to their communities and families. These offenses, which could be dealt with through non-criminal proceedings or diversion, result in disrupted lives and families being torn apart. If elected, what will you do to interrupt the use of the criminal justice system to deport people charged with minor offenses?

If elected, I will establish the position of Immigration Counsel to build stronger relationships with immigrant communities, provide assistance to victims of crime in obtaining visas, to train all staff on immigration issues, and to work to find case resolutions that do not lead to excessive penalties, particularly for those with minor drug convictions.

I will also advocate for legislation to protect the bail funds for those detained by ICE so that, when a default is caused because of ICE detention, the bail money shall be returned to the person posting the cash and not subject to forfeiture.

PRIVACY

1) Electronic surveillance techniques give law enforcement significant power to obtain extremely sensitive information about people. In a free society, people must know what their government is doing behind closed doors. If elected, will you release annual transparency reports, detailing how many times your office issued surveillance demands on companies or applied for warrants or other court orders to conduct electronic surveillance? Will you disclose the type of investigation (e.g. drugs, assault, larceny, etc.) and the type of legal demand (e.g. subpoena, court order, warrant, wiretap order) your office sought?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

2) Technology moves much faster than the law - and historically, prosecutors in Massachusetts have pushed back against efforts to update privacy law. Other states have passed privacy laws dealing with license plate readers, drones, stingrays, and demands to companies like Google and Facebook for user information, but Massachusetts has not. If elected, will you support privacy legislation to require warrants for electronic surveillance?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

3) Law enforcement can obtain huge quantities of information about people in Massachusetts without obtaining a court order, using an administrative subpoena that merely requires the signature of a district attorney. The state of California has passed privacy legislation to require a warrant for law enforcement access to sensitive metadata like call records, IP addresses, and credit card and banking information. If elected, will you support similar legislation in Massachusetts?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

No. I support the use of administrative subpoenas to gather non-content data like IP addresses and call records. I will commit to tracking and releasing data about the use of administrative subpoenas. Additionally, as I did at Suffolk County, I will train line prosecutors about the ethical use of administrative subpoenas and the disclosure obligations inherent in such a request.

4) In the last several legislative sessions, DAs have pushed for a broad expansion of Massachusetts' wiretap statute. The justification for some of this expansion has been to solve gang-related homicides; currently, gang activity is not considered organized crime for purposes of the statute. Would you support an expansion limited to homicide only?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

I believe that the wiretap statute should be updated to include gang activity in the definition of organized crime. If you are able to meet the burden to obtain a wiretap, you should be able to do so to investigate not only homicides, but also human and drug trafficking. The administration of justice in these matters hinges on thorough ethical training for both prosecutors and police officers to ensure that a request for a wiretap is limited in scope and respects constitutional rights.

BAIL

1) In light of the recent Commonwealth v. Brangan decision, the practice of requesting bail out of concern for public safety – but not pursuant to a 58A dangerous-

ness hearing under - should no longer happen. Will you commit to ensuring that assistant district attorneys will not misuse the dangerousness hearing?

Yes

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No

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If yes, how?

This is a problem particularly endemic at the Middlesex DA's Office after the 2013 murder of Jennifer Martel by Jared Remy. Remy had been released on bail and not held as dangerous. A tragedy occurred. Since then, pretrial incarceration has gone up 110% in Middlesex despite a drop in arrest rates and in prosecutions.

We must ensure the integrity and appropriate use of dangerousness hearings, and work to provide the services and support that victims and witnesses deserve. Those who do not pose a danger to the public should not be held pretrial for an inability to pay, or as a result of a judgment made outside the appropriate process.

If no, why not?

2) We know that, too often, innocent people plead guilty to crimes they did not commit. One reason for this: they cannot afford bail amounts and would rather plead guilty than suffer pre-trial detention to fight the charges against them. What are the top three policies you would implement to change bail practices so that they do not force people to plead guilty to crimes they did not commit?

There are two changes we can make immediately. First, no bail requests for low-level nonviolent offenses. My office will have a well-defined list of offenses this policy covers, and will release data every six months on requests and outcomes. Second, we will train prosecutors to educate judges about the cost of incarcerating a person who cannot afford bail so that the true costs of the incarceration are part of the consideration around bail.

A longer term program will be to implement a text message reminder system for those with hearing dates like the one used for jury duty. This will require collaboration with the Trial Court, but has the potential for incredible savings - both for folks who avoid pretrial detention and thus are able to appear for their jobs, pay their rent, and make their other obligations, and for the criminal justice system.

PAROLE

1) The Massachusetts Parole Board has a reputation of granting relatively low rate of parole. The DA plays an important role in parole hearings, including in new juvenile life without parole cases now constitutionally required to go in front of the board, If elected, would you consider an individual review of cases coming in front of parole such that your office would only ask the parole board to deny parole in cases where remorse is clearly not shown?

I have appeared before the Parole Board for a number of hearings on juvenile life hearings. With each hearing, I reviewed the cases based on the individual facts and circumstances. Most impor-

tantly, I reviewed what experiences and challenges the person requesting parole faced while incarcerated. I will make it the standard operating procedure in my office to do the same.

One of the most remarkable moments of my career occurred during a parole hearing. I had prepared to oppose the request for parole. The person requesting parole spoke so eloquently about how his life had changed, from his 17-year-old self to a man who grew up while incarcerated. He shared how he had educated himself and became a mentor for men who walked the same troubled path he had travelled. Two hours into the hearing, the victim's family spoke: the son, brother, cousin had been friends of the victim of the person requesting parole. They spoke of their loss. And they spoke of their forgiveness. They forgave him. When the parole board asked me to come to the table to testify, I was honest. I told them, as I had in a letter I submitted, that the Commonwealth had planned on opposing the request. But in the face of the grace shown by the victim's family, and seeing first-hand the true reformation of the man who was asking for parole, I couldn't hold that position any longer. It's important as a leader to continue to listen, to continue to be informed, to continue the conversation.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

1) DAs have a major gatekeeper role in who enters and who is excluded from the justice system. Most DAs have diversion programs for young people, but there is no information available to show if these diversionary programs are offered fairly and do not contribute to racial and ethnic disparities. Will you commit to publicly releasing non-identifying prosecution and diversion data to address this gap in transparency?

Yes

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No

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If no, why not?

2) Young adults, including those in their late teens, have the worst outcomes of any age group in the criminal justice system. What reforms do you support that would improve how young people are better situated to mature into more positive adults?

As District Attorney, I will create a Juvenile and Emerging Adult Bureau, the four-point plan for which I have already released. My plan for the Juvenile and Emerging Adult Bureau draws on the latest medical and psychological research to improve outcomes for young adults involved in the criminal justice system. Lawyers and staff will be trained to understand and utilize evidence that brain development continues through adolescence and into early adulthood, and to seek diversion and restorative justice options that allow young adults to make their lives whole again and participate in society as productive adults.

In addition to prioritizing the use of diversion and restorative justice, the Bureau will collect data at every point of a young person's interaction with the criminal justice system to ensure equity and fairness in prosecutions, and allow communities to hold the office accountable to those goals. Bureau staff will work with researchers and experts in the field to identify evidence-based programs that measurably reduce recidivism. An important first step of the Bureau's cases is specialized screening, an early opportunity to disrupt the cycle of recidivism. Bureau screenings will follow

a validated rubric to reduce the impact of implicit bias and determine whether a prosecution or diversion is the most appropriate next step.

I was disappointed that the recent criminal justice reform law did not include raising the age of the juvenile court jurisdiction. Massachusetts' experience four years ago raising the age by one year demonstrated how expanding the scope of the juvenile court resulted in a drop in crime and better outcomes.

MANDATORY MINIMUMS

1) An overwhelming number of cases are resolved by guilty plea, driving the rates of incarceration and racial disparities in sentencing. Too often, guilty pleas are leveraged through the threat of facing lengthy mandatory minimum sentences. If elected, will you reform this practice?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, how so?

Over the past decades, at untold costs to communities of color, we have learned that mandatory minimums are not the answer. I will advocate for the repeal of all mandatory sentences. And, I will take action I can control, such as advising ADAs not to charge school zone mandatory minimums, except in clear circumstances of dealing drugs during school hours at risk of harm to children.

My office will advocate for and use clear sentencing guidelines. Working with community stakeholders, we will develop and use internal sentencing guidelines for prosecutors. The use of sentencing guidelines is one way of ensuring that people involved in the courts are treated equitably. Prosecutors will be trained to identify mitigating and aggravating circumstances during sentencing, and identify those factors that affect the disposition. Prosecutors will also be trained to approach sentencing ethically and equitably, with a review of cases where mandatory minimums are charged when lesser may apply.

If no, why not?

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

1) As a member of the MDAA, will you advocate for the support of policies that will reduce mass incarceration and racial disparity in the criminal legal system?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?

2) Although some mandatory minimum offenses were repealed, new ones were created and others stayed on the books. Do you support the repeal of all mandatory minimum sentences for any drug offense?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?

3) The Commonwealth v. Brangan decision and the recent bill changing the bail statute will hopefully reduce the number of people being detained pre-trial merely because they are too poor to afford bail. Despite these recent reforms, there are still significant numbers of people held on cash bail. Do you support ending cash bail?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not?