



Geneviéve Jones-Wright

DA Candidate: San Diego County

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Mass Incarceration

1. Do you agree that prosecutors' practices have contributed significantly to mass incarceration? Please select "Yes" or "No" and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Measuring success in the criminal justice system in arrest and conviction rates has come at a terrible human and financial cost. The only true measure of success in criminal justice is prevention.

2. Will you commit to implementing practices that will reduce the jail population and reduce state prison commitments by a specific percentage by the end of your first term? Please select "Yes" or "No" and provide explanation. If "Yes", please identify your goal and what specific combination of reforms you anticipate will achieve this goal.

No Response

Here's Why

While I have many goals in prison and jail reduction, the County of San Diego has not been transparent with the data regarding who is charged with what crimes and how often. Without these numbers to measure issues such as racial profiling, juvenile justice, over-charging, disparate treatment, and other factors--I do not feel comfortable committing to a specific percentage--yet. But, as an example, San Diego County jails are our biggest mental health facilities and over one-quarter of our jail population is homeless. These things are wrong and I will put a stop to the criminalization of mental illness and poverty.

3. In the last ten years, the California District Attorneys Association has opposed all criminal justice reform measures at the ballot and most in the legislature. Will you commit to breaking with the CDAA and supporting reforms to reduce reliance on incarceration in the Legislature and the ballot box? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office opposed Propositions 47, 57, and 64. These propositions overwhelmingly passed in the County of San Diego and it is time for San Diegans to have a District Attorney who respects and reflects the will of the people.

Standing Up to Police Misconduct

1. Will you swiftly, thoroughly and transparently investigate officer-involved shootings and police brutality and make your findings publicly available? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

I believe there should be an independent unit that investigates Officer Involved Shootings, officer misconduct, and excessive force allegations and determines whether they are justified and whether charges against an officer should be levied. This unit would be comprised of attorneys and investigators that do not work with law enforcement on a daily basis and thusly are shielded from potential conflicts. The unit would be staffed by attorneys and investigators who would not go to trial or be in court at all. There would be a process put into place to release findings, including body worn camera footage, so that the unit would work as efficiently and transparently as possible to help gain community trust.

2. If you believe there is a conflict of interest in an investigation (as described above), will you recuse your office and call for an independent investigation by the Attorney General of California? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Absolutely. I do not care which office gets the credit. I just want justice to be served.

3. As a critical police accountability tool, will you commit to keeping a thorough Brady database that includes all incidents of officer misconduct fully available to defense? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

4. Unlike most other states, California makes police misconduct records confidential by statute, preventing even prosecutors from looking into the files without first getting a court order. Do you think California should allow public access to records relating to police misconduct? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Police officers are public servants and the public should know when police officers are acting outside the scope of their duty.

Combating Racial Disparities

1. Will you commit to implement policies and practices to combat bias in decision-making within your Office, including in charging decisions, bail recommendations, diversionary program placements, and plea bargains – as well as in internal Office practices (i.e. regularly bringing in experts to train staff and prosecutors on implicit and explicit bias, prioritizing inclusive hiring and promotion, and ensuring the office not only has racial and ethnic diversity, but also diversity in gender, ability, health)? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

I have said since Day One of my campaign that employees within the District Attorney's Office should have ongoing implicit bias training, cultural sensitivity training, and Constitutional rights training. We should also extend those trainings to other law enforcement agencies. We need a District Attorney's Office that is a reflection of the community it is charged with serving. As such, I would ensure the DA's Office has diversity in gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, health, religion and life experiences. People are the experts of their own lives and I believe we cannot truly serve a community without the cultural awareness and sensitivity and that comes from lived experiences.

2. Will you pledge to collect and post online quarterly statistical information disaggregated by race and gender on felony and misdemeanor charging decisions, convictions, declinations (to charge), and diversion program placements? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Absolutely. Transparency is sorely lacking under the current administration.

3. Will you decline to file charges where an arrest evidence that the officer engaged in racial profiling or other racial bias? Please answer “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Yes. Racial profiling is not only unconstitutional but ineffective. Racial profiling violates the principle of equal protection under the law and our right to be free from unlawful searches and seizures. Racial profiling also undermines trust in law enforcement and creates an atmosphere of fear. Racial profiling must be eradicated.

Reducing Gun Violence

1. Do you pledge to be a champion and supporter of gun violence reduction strategies proven to reduce shootings, rather than over-relying on prosecution that is both generally ineffective at preventing future violence and is likely to send disproportionately more black and brown young people to jail? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Collaboration across the Public Safety Group and across communities is the only way we will effectively fight gun violence. While we cannot simply prosecute our way out of this problem, as District Attorney I would fight to close the “boyfriend loophole” by keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. I would support gun buyback programs, juvenile prevention and intervention strategies, and advocate that the County of San Diego use some of its reserve HHS funds to study gun violence in the county as a public health issue. More data will help us find solutions to this problem.

Ending Poverty Penalties and Money Bail

1. Do you commit to ending the use of money bail in this County?
Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Whether or not a defendant stays in jail should be determined by their flight risk and the danger they pose to the community, not by their bank account. Further, the inability to post bail affects people of color and poorer communities regardless of risk of danger or flight.

2. Do you support eliminating money bail in California at the state level?
Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Whether or not a defendant stays in jail should be determined by their flight risk and the danger they pose to the community, not by their bank account. Further, the inability to post bail affects people of color and poorer communities regardless of risk of danger or flight.

3. Will you commit to develop and implement a plan to personally, regularly and meaningfully engage and communicate with all constituencies in your county, especially communities of color, the immigrant community, community-based organizations and criminal justice reform advocates, and to involve them in determining the priorities of your office within the first 100 days of your term? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

I believe that every segment of every community must be involved in public safety. The District Attorney's Office should be accessible to all San Diego County residents and communities, not just law enforcement or those who are well connected. I am proud to be running to be The People's DA.

Ensuring Accessibility Transparency & Accountability

1. Will you pledge to publish on the Office website all policies, protocols, and MOUs regarding prosecution guidelines, police-involved incidents, bail recommendations, fines and fees, diversion programs, plea bargains, civil asset forfeiture, immigration considerations, and indigency determinations? Please select "Yes" or "No" and provide an explanation.

Yes**Here's Why**

Yes. Transparency is sorely lacking in the current administration.

Protecting Workers and Consumers

1. Will you pledge to create/expand a Conviction Integrity Unit and, as part of that process, compare current operations against the guidelines published by the Innocence Project in October 2015? Please select "Yes" or "No" and provide an explanation.

Yes**Here's Why**

As a defense attorney and a volunteer for the California Innocence Project, I have seen first-hand how a wrongful conviction can ruin the life of the accused and keep the victim from ever receiving justice. The San Diego District Attorney's Office has a conviction review unit, but it does not do its job proactively, efficiently, and needs a major overhaul.

I will commit to stepping up both the quantity and quality of the work done by this unit to clear the names of those who have been wrongfully convicted. As well, I will do outreach to the public so that they are aware of the Unit so that the individuals who need the information will have the information. I will also invite an independent review of our findings. I have said time and time again, that justice is not served if the wrong person is behind bars.

Protecting Immigrant Communities

1. Will you pledge to adopt a written policy and training which encourages prosecutors to consider the unintended immigration-related consequences of prosecutorial decisions at all stages of a case and to use their discretion to reach immigration-safe dispositions for noncitizens whenever it is possible and appropriate? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

As District Attorney, I would take immigration consequences into account when filing charges, which the current DA does not consistently do. Although local jurisdictions are limited in their influence over DHS policy, I would work to ensure that victims and witnesses are safe at courthouses and other local law enforcement buildings.

2. To protect immigrant crime victims, will you pledge to adopt and promote a written U Visa policy within your Office that includes a rebuttable presumption of helpfulness and the direction that U Visa certifications be completed regardless of whether charges were brought, a conviction was achieved, or the case has concluded? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Victims should be protected and treated with dignity and respect regardless of their immigration status.

3. Will you refuse to cooperate and liaise with ICE? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

As District Attorney I will work to ensure that our court houses are safe houses. Local law enforcement should not work with DHS to enforce immigration laws. This leads entire communities to lose trust in law enforcement and under report crimes, which leads criminals to target entire communities.

Advancing Youth Justice

1. Will you commit to keeping all children out of adult court by pledging not to prosecute any minors as adults and by expanding the use of informal diversion and pre-filing diversion in juvenile cases? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

This is why we need science-based and trauma-informed criminal justice practices. Research shows that the human brain continues developing until around the age of 25 and that children and young adults can be more easily rehabilitated. As a result, children should not be prosecuted in adult court, nor should they be given punishments that preclude the opportunity for redemption.

2. Recognizing that children and youth are categorically less culpable than adults, that they have less impulse control and that they possess profound capacity for transformation, will you decline to seek life without the possibility of parole for any person under 25 at the time of offense? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

This is why we need science-based and trauma-informed criminal justice practices. Research shows that the human brain continues developing until around the age of 25 and that children and young adults can be more easily rehabilitated. As a result, children should not be prosecuted in adult court, nor should they be given punishments that preclude the opportunity for redemption.

3. Will you create or expand a Consumer Protection Unit in the Office to address labor violations – whether related to occupational safety and health or violations of basic laws, regulations or policies related to wages, hours or conditions of employment?

Yes

Here's Why

I will create a Consumer and Worker Protection Unit that will serve as an enforcement arm to prosecute wage theft, labor trafficking, employers who break equal pay and sick leave laws, and ensure that workplaces are healthy, safe and fair for the people who make our economy work.

Death Penalty

1. Will you pledge to exercising your discretion never seek the death penalty? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

Yes

Here's Why

Although the death penalty is still legal in California, it is not mandatory that a District Attorney imposes it. The death penalty is discriminatory, costly, and ineffective as a deterrent. I am morally opposed to it.