



# Jason Anderson

DA Candidate: San Bernardino County

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## Personal Information

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## Issue Areas

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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**

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.

**Yes**

### **Here's Why**

I would attempt to expand alternative sentencing options for non violent crimes through Drug Court, Homeless Court, Mental Health Court and Restorative Justice options for victims of crimes and the offenders. Some of these options would occur at a pre-filing stage depending upon the case and the offender's age and criminal record.

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**

One cannot be committed to absolutes regarding any group that advocates for justice reform.

## 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**

San Bernardino County is a large enough jurisdiction to create it's own officer involved shooting unit within the Bureau of Investigation.

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**

That practice is currently in place regarding any review of charges.

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**

### **Here's Why**

That procedure already exists within the DA's office.

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.

**No**

**Here's Why**

Most employment records, school records and medical records are protected for everyone's protection. However, sufficient justification will exist in order to access all these in a prosecution, including police records through a court order.

## 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**

Any policy needs to be office wide with a consistent review by supervisors to ensure everyone who handles cases in court will be consistent regarding a policy to prevent bias and disparate impacts by the DA's office.

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.

**No**

**Here’s Why**

I would collect the data, but I would like to share it quarterly with community leaders in person to understand the impact, both positive and negative, that the DA’s office is having in their communities.

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**

## 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**

I would strive to make any decision color blind.

## 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.

**No**

**Here’s Why**

I would follow the emerging law of bail amount and one's ability to pay, danger the community, severity of the crime and prior record when arguing proper bail.

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

**No**

**Here’s Why**

Same response as (above).

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**

One of my platforms is to ask the County Supervisors to choose community leaders in their districts to meet with me quarterly to discuss our prosecution statistics.

## 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.

**No**

## 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**

## 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.

**No**

**Here's Why**

But I will ensure that current constitutional requirements by Court's advisal and defense counsel's advice to client's who may have immigration issues be applied.

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**

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

**No****Here's Why**

That a jurisdictional issue that does not include a DA's office.

## 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.

**No**



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.

**No**

**Here’s Why**

I will decline to seek the possibility of life without parole for anyone under 25 at the time of offense. I believe that it is cruel and cynical to believe that a young person cannot be rehabilitated.

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**

Already exists within the office.

## Death Penalty

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

**No**

**Here’s Why**

Again, too broad. Victim's families, prior record, special circumstances and all facts and

circumstances would need to be reviewed regarding deciding upon a death penalty case.