



**California District Attorney Candidate Questionnaire  
June 5, 2018 Election**

Congratulations on your candidacy for County District Attorney!

All candidates for County District Attorney across the state of California have received a request to complete this questionnaire, created by the ACLU of California, Color Of Change, PICO Action, and Rock the Vote.

Please help educate voters in your county by providing your full response by **April 1, 2018**.

The questionnaire consists of 23 Yes/No questions, each with the opportunity to provide a 250-word comment. *Where neither "Yes" nor "No" is selected, the response will be recorded as "Did Not Respond."* All respondents will receive a copy of their submitted responses and have an opportunity to correct any mistakes or errors.

By submitting this questionnaire, you give permission for your responses to be made available to the public online. We will provide a link to that site, when it launches in April. That site will include all DA candidates' names, pictures, campaign contact information, and the text of all candidates' responses. The site may also include a video clip, provided by each candidate's campaign. Should a candidate not respond to the questionnaire, the site will note that as well.

Please direct any questions to Karen Camacho at 415-621-2493 Ext 372 or [kcamacho@aclunc.org](mailto:kcamacho@aclunc.org).

Respectfully,

ACLU of California, Color Of Change, PICO Action, and Rock the Vote

[Please note that all the following questions are required unless otherwise noted in the survey]

**Contact Information (For survey administrator use only)**

- a. Candidate Name
- b. County
- c. Contact Person
- d. Contact Email
- e. Contact Phone Number

**About the Campaign (For Public Use: to be posted online along with survey responses)**

- a. Campaign website
- b. Campaign email address
- c. Campaign phone number
- d. (Optional) Please provide a link to video clip (not longer than 30-60 seconds) of the candidate answering this question from Rock the Vote: "How would you be a champion for young people, particularly those of color?" [Questions? Contact Karen Camacho at [kcamacho@aclunc.org](mailto:kcamacho@aclunc.org).]
- e. Please provide a link to a candidate photo. Headshot preferred. (To instead provide a file, please email Karen Camacho at [kcamacho@aclunc.org](mailto:kcamacho@aclunc.org).)

**Ending Mass Incarceration**

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

### **Standing Up to Police Misconduct**

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

### **Combatting Racial Disparities**

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

### **Reducing Gun Violence**

11. 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.

### **Ending Poverty Penalties and Money Bail**

12. Do you commit to ending the use of money bail in this County? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.
13. Do you support eliminating money bail in California at the state level? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

### **Ensuring Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability**

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

### **Protecting Immigrant Communities**

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Will you refuse to cooperate and liaise with ICE? Please select “Yes” or “No” and provide an explanation.

### **Advancing Youth Justice**

20. 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.
  
21. 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.

### **Protecting Workers and Consumers**

22. 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?

### **Death Penalty**

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



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**You're Done!**

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You will receive a copy of your responses. Please let us know immediately if you have any corrections.

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