

DISTRICT ATTORNEY YOUTH JUSTICE VOTER GUIDE



SUFFOLK COUNTY

WELCOME LETTER



Each year, thousands of young people in Massachusetts come in contact with the juvenile justice system. These young people are disproportionately children of color, children from the child welfare system, children coming from areas of concentrated poverty, and LGBTQ children. For the majority of these young people, interactions with the juvenile justice system are overwhelmingly negative, and lead to poor outcomes and even increased delinquency. Yet progress is made every day in reforming our juvenile justice system into one that is fair and works to create positive outcomes for all system-involved youth, creating stronger and safer communities for everyone.

District Attorneys play a major role in ensuring the success of juvenile justice system reform. Candidates for District Attorney have the opportunity to be a force for change and reform in the juvenile justice system. The following questions cover a range of youth justice issues especially relevant to Massachusetts voters. All registered candidates for District Attorney in Massachusetts have been sent the same questions, and all submitted answers are published here unedited.

This report was prepared by Citizens for Juvenile Justice, Greater Boston Legal Services, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, The Home for Little Wanderers, I Have a Future, National Association of Social Workers - Massachusetts Chapter, Roca, and Strategies for Youth.

IMPORTANT DATES



Primary Election Voter Registration Deadline

Wednesday, August 15th, 2018

State Primary

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

General Election Voter Registration Deadline

Wednesday, October 17th, 2018

General Election

Tuesday, November 6th, 2018

REGISTERED CANDIDATES



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**
Democrat



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**
Independent
Reformer



**LINDA
CHAMPION**
Democrat



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**
Democrat



**GREG
HENNING**
Democrat



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**
Democrat

*During the Primary Election, voters will choose from candidates running as Democrats. The winner of the Primary Election and the Independent Reformer candidate will both appear on the General Election ballot

YES/NO QUESTIONS



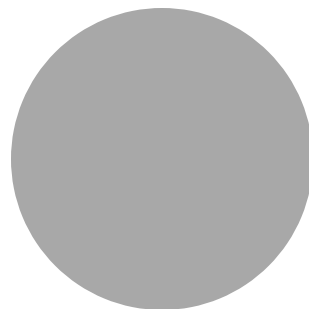
The following eight questions were presented to each of the candidates as yes/no questions. The answer key for the yes/no questions is:



**CANDIDATE
ANSWERED
"YES"**



**CANDIDATE
ANSWERED
"NO"**



**CANDIDATE
DECLINED
TO ANSWER
YES/NO**

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES



District Attorneys have a major gatekeeping role in who enters and who is excluded from the justice system. Most DA's have diversion programs for young people, but there is no information publicly available to show if these diversionary programs are offered fairly so they don't exacerbate racial and ethnic disparities. Would you commit to publicly releasing non-identifying prosecution and diversion data to address this gap in transparency?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



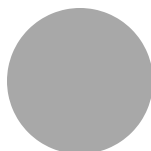
**LINDA
CHAMPION**



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**



**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSPARENCY



Will you pledge to collect and publish statistical data (without disclosing personal identifying information), including race/ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation of defendants in felony and misdemeanor charging decisions, convictions, declinations to charge, and diversion program placements?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



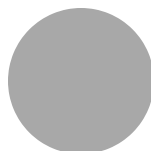
**LINDA
CHAMPION**



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**



**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



DIVERSION PROGRAMS



Most District Attorneys divert young people charged with first-time offenses, or with low-level offenses. Research* indicates that diversion is less costly to taxpayers and more effective in reducing youth crime than prosecution in court, even for youth with more serious offenses. Will you commit to expanding formal diversion to community-based rehabilitation programs as an alternative to prosecution for these youths?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



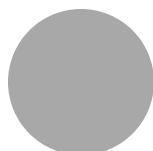
**LINDA
CHAMPION**



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**



**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



RAISING THE AGE



In 2013, Massachusetts raised the age of juvenile court to keep 17-year-olds out of the adult system, excluding murder cases. Since then, juvenile crime has declined by 34%, and has seen faster declines in violent and property crime rates than the national average. Young adults ages 18 – 20 are highly amenable to rehabilitation, and keeping them in the juvenile system, where they must attend school and participate in rehabilitative programming will lower recidivism. Would you commit to support gradually raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds in order to ensure more young people mature as responsible and productive adults in our communities?



EVANDRO CARVALHO



MICHAEL MALONEY



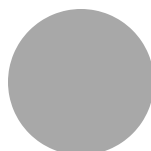
LINDA CHAMPION



SHANNON MCAULIFFE



GREG HENNING



RACHAEL ROLLINS



CHILDREN STANDING TRIAL



Research on the competency of children has repeatedly found that children 11 to 13 years old “demonstrated significantly poorer understanding of trial matters, as well as poorer reasoning and recognition of the relevance of information for a legal defense, than did 14- and 15-year-olds.” Would you support a rebuttable presumption that children under age 14 are not competent to stand trial?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



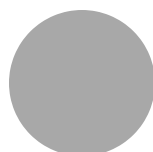
**LINDA
CHAMPION**



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**



**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



PAROLE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS



Given the Supreme Court's recognition that juvenile offenders differ from their adult counterparts, would you support a rebuttable presumption of parole suitability for juvenile offenders?



EVANDRO CARVALHO



MICHAEL MALONEY



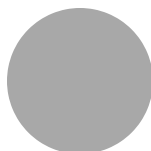
LINDA CHAMPION



SHANNON MCAULIFFE



GREG HENNING



RACHAEL ROLLINS



ENDING CASH BAIL



Very few young people charged with criminal offenses have any disposable income. As a result, they are presumed indigent by the courts. Those in the foster care system are rarely released pre-trial, and are disproportionately held in juvenile detention. Would you be in favor of ending cash bail for low-income and young people in foster care?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



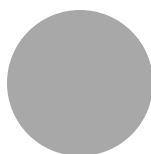
**LINDA
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**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



COMMITMENT STATEMENT



Probation is the most common disposition for young people who are found to be “delinquent” in juvenile court. The Columbia Justice Lab recently released a statement* outlining five commitments aimed at reducing the number of people on probation and parole supervision. Signers of the statement would commit to reducing the reliance of probation/parole to those who truly require supervision; reducing the length of time someone is under supervision; reducing probation/parole fees; and re-investing cost savings to community-based supports for people under supervision. If (re-)elected, will you join leaders from across the country in signing on to this statement?



**EVANDRO
CARVALHO**



**MICHAEL
MALONEY**



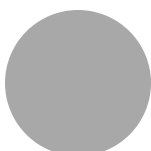
**LINDA
CHAMPION**



**SHANNON
MCAULIFFE**



**GREG
HENNING**



**RACHAEL
ROLLINS**



NARRATIVE QUESTIONS



The following seven questions were presented to all candidates as narrative, or short answer, questions. Candidates were asked to keep their answers under 200 words, and their answers are published unedited in the format below. Answers to each question are spread across two pages.



CANDIDATE 1

Candidate's answer



CANDIDATE 2

Candidate's answer



CANDIDATE 3

Candidate's answer

DIVERSION DATA



District Attorneys have a major gatekeeping role in who enters and who is excluded from the justice system. Most DA's have diversion programs for young people, but there is no information available to show if these diversionary programs are offered fairly and whether they contribute to racial and ethnic disparities. How would you address this gap in transparency?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

As State Representative I was one of the lead sponsors of many parts of the recently passed criminal justice reform. The part that I am most proud of leading is this issue of juvenile justice, raising the age for criminal responsibility and allow young people to erase many of their records. The school the prison pipeline has crippled our communities far too long. As the District Attorney, I will substantially decrease or eliminate the school the prison pipeline. All school based arrests will be considered for diversion. On day one I will create

a new senior level position called Chief of Diversion and Restorative Justice to focus on diverting people out of the criminal justice system , particularly our youth. Data collection is one of my top priorities. We need evidence based prosecution and data is essential to making sure we improve the system and make it work fairly for everyone. I committed to instituting data collection policy to ensure that we get the information we need to address racial disparities in the system.



LINDA CHAMPION

Aside from violent offenses, all young people should be placed in a diversion program. It will be important to track the data to identify disparities and to make sure they are addressed immediately.



GREG HENNING

Incarcerating fewer people should always be our goal. This can be achieved using intervention programs, diverting drug addicted people and others with treatable underlying mental issues to specific programs, advocating for job training and employment opportunities for people in custody, and making every effort to keep everyone -especially young people - out of custody unless it is absolutely necessary. If elected, I would increase and expand the "Road to Recovery" program, formalize the

"breakdown" policy I began while running the Gang Unit, and create the LEED program - Law Enforcement Early Diversion - to provide mentoring services to at-risk youth. As discussed below, I would also make it a priority to track data around diversion attempts in order to provide as great a level as transparency as possible to the public. And, I would absolutely commit to ensuring that any diversionary program is implemented fairly and effectively across racial, ethnic, and other demographic lines.

DIVERSION DATA



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MICHAEL MALONEY

An overarching premise of my administration will be avoiding prosecution for non-violent drug cases. All diversionary programs will maintain statistics, that will be publicly available, regarding race and ethnicity of defendants utilizing these programs in lieu of prosecution.



SHANNON MCAULIFFE

If you do not measure something and know the current results, it is literally impossible to improve it. Currently the Suffolk County DA's office measures virtually nothing (with the exception of the new juvenile diversion program) citing a stingy legislature and outdated system. And in the juvenile diversion programs that have existed, only 5 of the 11 District Attorneys in the state ever recorded race and ethnicity. This is unacceptable. As DA, I would measure how systemic racism (skin color) and systemic injustice (zip code, income, gender, sexual identity, trauma, victimization, etc.) plays out in our courtrooms at all the various pressure points. Measurement related to diversionary programs and specialty courts must include: availability, eligibility, time of intervention, success rate, responses to relapses, exit reasons and length of time to complete - all factors affected by race, income and zip code. Once the gaps are recognized, I will push and train against such direct and disparate impacts and report out to the office, partners and the public the status of our efforts to obtain equality and equity in such programs.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

Currently, the SCDAO does not capture any of this type of data. Data collection and transparency are crucial to restoring the public's trust in the SCDAO. The ACLUM frequently states that Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates in the country, but our racial disparities within the incarcerated population are among the highest in the nation. It should be noted that with respect to diversion, "when" people are diverted matters. With pre-arraignment diversion, no criminal record is entered against the individual. With pre-trial diversion, a record has already been entered and the individual has a CORI. Under my administration, we will capture relevant data upon someone entering the criminal justice system, even if they are offered pre-arraignment diversion.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES



While youth of color make up roughly 33% of the youth population in Massachusetts, they represent 60% of those arraigned. What steps will you take to collect data on and address racial disparities in charging decisions, bail recommendations, diversionary program placements and plea bargains?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

Along with data collection, I commit to re-evaluation of all major decision points of the system: charging, bail, plea-bargaining, and sentencing, and etc. The school the prison pipe line is a major contributor to this disparity. As DA, I commit to considering all school based arrests for pre arraignment diversion. Administration will focus on prevention before prosecution, particularly as it pertains to our youth. We will build relationships with schools, local youth organizations like YMCA, Boys & Girls clubs, diversion programs, parent organizations, and etc to reduce youth violent in our communities .



LINDA CHAMPION

As a former juvenile court prosecutor most of the offenses arraigned should have been remanded back to the schools for disciplinary action. Having arraigned school based offenses I am certain they contribute to the 60% and we need to stop arraignment of non-violent school based offenses.



GREG HENNING

I will seek to provide as great a level of transparency as is possible through the implementation of new data collection software. To me, this is a critical step in restoring public trust in law enforcement.

We need a complete overhaul of our case tracking system, which is over a decade old and extremely limited in terms of the information that can be recorded. The DA's office has been looking to purchase new software, but the legislature hasn't funded the District Attorneys to make this move. If elected, I will continue to push the legislature for more funding so that modern software can be used to track demographic data, charge-specific data, and more. This is a key to providing the most accurate information to the public.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES



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MICHAEL MALONEY

I will incorporate the best practices of other US cities, particularly Philadelphia, for data collection techniques. I will also implement a civilian advisory board consisting of constituents from each of Suffolk's neighborhoods regarding best practices. Adjustments will be incorporated as necessary.



SHANNON MCAULIFFE

At Roca, I used data to achieve the outcome of reduced recidivism. Every day, I used data to manage, evaluate and motivate my team. We had executive management meetings quarterly where Directors were held accountable to multiple different benchmarks of the model and if we fell short anywhere, we were expected to innovate, adapt and make corrections immediately. I brought my team into these discussions and showed them the data which allowed them

to build the muscles of transparency, resilience and learning. When we measured, we could improve. As DA, I will do the same. I will collect demographic data (race, ethnicity, gender, income, zip code, sexual orientation, etc.) regarding charges, bail, pleas, and ultimate dispositions. I will collect the same data as to all prosecutors making those same decisions. Prosecutors do not want to make systemically racist decisions but they do. I will share results with prosecutors and the public. I will also measure the number of court dates to determine if disparities force a lack of urgency when in fact, all criminal matters require urgency and expediency. You can count on me to be transparent about where we are day one and report out regarding our progress made.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

Racial disparities are rampant throughout the entire criminal justice system. Even within the SCDAO there are significant racial disparities. Of the 150 ADAs in the office, 131 are white, 10 are African-American, 6 are Asian-American, and 4 are Latin-American - meaning that nearly 90% of the ADAs in the SCDAO are white. With respect to positions of leadership, the gender disparities within the SCDAO are equally staggering. These statistics and other troubling racial and gender-based disparities do not appear to be of concern to the current

administration.

When I become DA, these issues will be addressed head-on, spoken about publicly and rectified. We will absolutely collect data regarding the following: bail requests, recommendations for diversion, reasons for any rejection of diversion, restorative justice alternatives, charging decisions, sentencing recommendations, initial plea bargain offers, and any requests for civil asset forfeiture proceedings.

DIVERSION PROGRAMS



In 2015, a federally funded District Attorney Diversion Assessment Study* identified changes needed to improve juvenile DA diversion practices: the collection of comprehensive data, including race/ethnicity, to measure program and youth outcomes; the use of standardized screening and assessment tools to distinguish between the risks and the service needs of youth to expand more opportunities for juvenile diversion; assigning dedicated diversion staff to offer intensive case management. Since the release of the assessment study, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office has created a formal juvenile diversion program in Boston Juvenile Court incorporating many of the assessment report recommendations. Please explain if and how you would expand, keep unchanged, change (either the model, or the catchment area), or eliminate the DA diversion program?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

I believe the current diversion program is too narrow. We need to start from a broader stand point and adjust if need be. We shouldn't limit diversions to only first time offenders and misdemeanor offenses. As DA, I will expand the program to include appropriate felonies as well, particularly those involving victims. With the victims consent, youth offenses should be considered for not only diversions, but also restorative justice practices. Seeing and hearing from the victim can help a teenager offender to better understand the consequences of his actions.



LINDA CHAMPION

I support juvenile diversion but I do not have enough information on the new program created to answer this question.



GREG HENNING

I would maintain and expand the current diversion program called JAR. In addition to the current model, I support a "young adults" session in our courts that would handle cases for an age demographic above the age of 17. If we funnel resources into a consolidated session, our chances for rehabilitation and reducing recidivism among this impressionable group will be improved. I support the provision of the new crime bill that keeps separate younger inmates from older inmates. I have seen first-hand the difference between a 16-year-old and a 19-year-old in my work as a teacher, and I think the impressionability of

younger offenders is something we have to closely monitor in our system. I would also strongly advocate for greater resources and involvement with young offenders and those at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system, including employment, education, job-training, and mentoring programs.



MICHAEL MALONEY

Diversionary programs will be expanded including qualifications for acceptance into the Valor Act for veterans and drug courts, which often overlap.

Diversion programs are currently limited to juvenile court in Suffolk County. I will incorporate them in district court for the young adults.

*https://www.cfjj.org/s/MADiversion_FinalReport_2015-01-14-FINAL.PDF

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SHANNON MCAULIFFE

ADA Glennon and his team have done a tremendous job formalizing and measuring juvenile diversion in Suffolk County. In its first year, the program occurred in one court on certain days, accepted 45 juveniles and yielded 12 graduates over the year. I will implement the following changes:

1) expand to all 4 juvenile courts in the county every day of the week; 2) measure and analyze who is getting what and when based on demographics including race, income, zip code, gender, sexual identity, etc.; 3) expand eligibility to include more serious offenses with similarly serious, evidenced-based interventions (Suffolk County has by far the most violent crime than any other county requiring interventions earlier that will yield better results for youth and community safety than incarceration); 5) assess programs to which youth are being diverted based on ability to track and record youth progress and encourage more data; 6) expand restorative justice practices such as community conferences and circles because often the people closest to the problem are closest to the solutions and such practices simply work; and, 7) encourage the other 10 DA's in the state to implement a standard record keeping and data collection system to monitor statewide progress.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

The JAR program represents a big step in the right direction, but still operates within a system where prosecution (measure in wins and losses) is the preferred tool of the office. In its first year, the JAR program served just 45 of the 965 documented juvenile offenders. Moreover, this program only targets mid-level juvenile offenders and leaves the majority of youth without recourse for diversion. There is no formal process for diversion of low-level offenses, which makes tracking racial disparities

virtually impossible.

In my administration, one way we will measure community safety and success is by tracking how many juvenile offenders we divert and never hear from again. Right now, the SCDAO measures success by guilty verdicts and guilty pleas. I will make diversion programs the default option when juveniles come in contact with the criminal justice system. Currently, individuals have to opt-in to the JAR program, I want people to have to opt-out (or be opted-out). I also support raising the juvenile age so that more youth can participate in these programs.

The new criminal justice laws also now allows diversion in the District Court and BMC for offenders of any age.

*https://www.cfjj.org/s/MADiversion_FinalReport_2015-01-14-FINAL.PDF

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



According to a study of school based arrests in Massachusetts' three largest school districts, most arrests of students are reflective of youthful misbehavior, and predominantly not public safety risks. Additionally, the study found that Black and Latino children and special needs children are more likely to be arrested for behavior for which their white peers would not be arrested for. How will you prevent your office from serving as an entry point for young people into the school-to-prison pipeline?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

All School based arrests will be considered for potential pre-arraignment diversion. We will also collect data of all school arrests to identify schools that we can work with to reduce the arrests.



LINDA CHAMPION

I would like to go into the schools to help educate children on their rights but to also have the prosecutors serve as role models and perform community service within the school. I would like the schools to bring the students to the office and court to learn the legal system. We need to stop arraignment of non-violent school based offenses. Misbehavior should be addressed by the school and parents/guardians.



GREG HENNING

Our priority regarding juveniles should be in rehabilitation and diverting them away from the courts. Once kids enter our courts, we need to work hard to make sure that they do not come back as adults. This means we need to invest in diversionary programs for juveniles that focus on treating the underlying causes and conditions which drove the young person to offend in the first place. I want to see parents, defense lawyers, prosecutors, mental health care providers, and recovery programs come together to help youth get treatment as early as possible. In addition to JAR and LEED (both mentioned above), I would work with our juvenile prosecutors, school officials, and school police to ensure that school-based offenses are not brought into a court



MICHAEL MALONEY

There is a direct correlation between elementary school graduation rates and subsequent incarceration rates. It's a travesty. All non-violent drug cases, including juveniles, will not be prosecuted. Defendants will be triaged prior to arraignment for treatment options over prosecution/incarceration.

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



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SHANNON MCAULIFFE

The priority is to keep any child out of the system whenever possible. First, courts will no longer be used as a substitute for the Principal's office which often should be the worst thing that happens when a child acts out. Second, we criminalize adolescence and if a charge would not materialize for a child on Beacon Hill, it similarly should not anywhere else. Instead of court, we use our words, patience, families, communities and when needed, the DA's office

juvenile diversion program to direct that discourse. Third, I will encourage restorative practices as efficient, effective and empowering alternatives to court. And finally, juveniles who are victims of violent crime will be seen, heard, serviced, worked and valued. The system simply fails to appreciate the devastating physical, emotional and mental damage done when a young person is hurt, shot or stabbed and worse, such an episode is often used against him or her as "evidence" of criminal activity. At present when the victim "won't cooperate," they are judged and then left to navigate their pain, trauma and fear on their own with no skills whatsoever to meet that monumental challenge. All victims will be valued and serviced meaningfully without judgment.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

Again, another staggering racial disparity. What is encouraging is that the new criminal justice law speaks directly to ending the school to prison pipeline. Much of the problem with the school to prison pipeline starts with police (School Resource Officers) in the schools. They have been arresting students for non-criminal, administrative matters. The new criminal justice law specifically prohibits SROs from serving as school disciplinarians, as enforcers

of school regulations or in place of licensed school psychologists, psychiatrists or counselors. Further, SROs are not permitted to use police powers to address traditional school discipline issues, including non-violent disruptive behavior.

These measures will significantly reduce the number of school arrests and hopefully reduce discipline up to any including expulsion. This will result in fewer cases coming from SROs to the SCDAO. When we are notified of any school based arrest, we will be thinking of diversion first and will be tracking data regarding the matter.

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT



The newly enacted criminal justice law creates some opportunities for the expungement of juvenile and criminal records created before the age of 21 (as long as their sentence is completed and they have not re-offended in 3 to 7 years) to ensure that young people are afforded the opportunity to develop into healthy and successful adults without being held back by a juvenile or criminal record, particularly when their record does not serve a public safety benefit. Research* has shown that individuals with a record who have not reoffended within three to four years are at no greater risk of offending than the general population. Yet these records can bar young people from housing, employment, college, and the military. The new law gives district attorneys the opportunity to object to a petition to expunge an otherwise eligible record. Under what circumstances would you object to expungement of records?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

As one of the leader sponsors of this legislation, I will not object to expungements unless it absolutely necessary. Objections will be the exception, not the general rule.



LINDA CHAMPION

i objected in my career one time to a petition to expunge and it was for a man who violently raped his minor cousin under the age of 16. I will help people move on with their life but the public has a right to know if someone is a sexual predator or dangerous to the community.



GREG HENNING

I would insist that my prosecutors carefully consider the unique circumstances of each individual that files a petition to expunge. I cannot state that any one particular set of circumstances or another would draw a consistent objection. What I can say is that the effect on the victim of that particular case, any resulting effects on public safety, and the background and circumstances of the defendant will be factored into all decisions.

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT



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MICHAEL MALONEY

I fully support expungements. The collateral consequences associated with a minor record often have ripple effects throughout one's life. These individuals have been held accountable but should not bear the burden of an isolated incident for a lifetime.



SHANNON MCAULIFFE

If the person fits the requirements for expungement and has not reoffended within 3 to 4 years, my office will not object to expungement. Our society thrives when everyone has a fair, equal and equitable opportunity to participate in that society and collateral consequences to a conviction should no longer devastate an entire future. A record with no recidivism shows that holding a young person accountable in a developmentally-appropriate and pro-social way works to lift them up and out of the system. This is pure success. And a DA should never stand in the way of that success.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

The legislature has already exempted the following categories of crimes from expungement: death or serious bodily injury; intent to cause death or serious injury; any offense committed while armed with a dangerous weapon; any offense against an elderly person; any offense against a disable person; and any sex offense. Although this is not an exhaustive list, these are precisely the types of crimes that I would be hesitant to expunge. I believe that I would object to violent hate crimes being expunged from someone's record.

YOUNG ADULT RECIDIVISM



Young adults (18-25 years old) have the highest recidivism rates of any age group in the justice system. What reforms in the juvenile and the criminal legal systems do you support to improve outcomes for young people so they are better situated to mature into a more positive adulthood and with reduced recidivism?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

I support raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction until the age of 21. I also support having youth courts up to age of 25.



LINDA CHAMPION

Implement and fund diversion programs, internship programs, and support school based programs like Chelsea HUB.



GREG HENNING

See "Diversion Programs" answer above. In addition, I would strongly support funding employment opportunities for teenagers, young adults, and those re-entering society after serving a sentence. This is part of the promise of the Criminal Justice Reform Bill, and to fully achieve those goals we need to fund the programs discussed in the bill.



MICHAEL MALONEY

The overwhelming majority of offenses committed by 18-25 year olds are for non-violent drug crimes. Alternative justice programs will be incorporated throughout the county. Harm Reduction Zones will be utilized and the Angel Program will be implemented, allowing addicts to seek treatment without fear of prosecution. Diversionary programs will also be expanded beyond juvenile court and made available to young adults in district court.

YOUNG ADULT RECIDIVISM



Young adults (18–25 years old) have the highest recidivism rates of any age group in the justice system. What reforms in the juvenile and the criminal legal systems do you support to improve outcomes for young people so they are better situated to mature into a more positive adulthood and with reduced recidivism?



SHANNON MCAULIFFE

In sum, I will take an "everything-and-anything" approach to implementing evidenced-based, innovative measures to ensure we stop wasting hundreds of millions of dollars sending too many emerging adults to prison where this developing population will soak in the horrors of incarceration and exit worse off and much more likely to recidivate and commit crimes.

I support raising the age, young adult courts, restorative justice and any initiative that implements the philosophy that emerging adults must be held accountable in a pro-social way to ensure they learn from their mistakes, build their resilience and retain the capacity to grow and flourish. I believe in desistance: understanding that stumbles are part of success and ensuring the system stops taking a mistake in an otherwise positive trajectory to slam the book at the person so hard he or she never gets up. Interventions that begin and end at punishment cut off learning, improvement and growth. We need emerging adults to exit the system less dangerous, not more dangerous. Our safety and future depend on it.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

As DA, I pledge to zealously advocate for raising the age of criminal adulthood to above 18 years old. I plan to significantly increase participation in diversion programs. I want to advocate for jobs for youth PRIOR to entering the criminal justice system. For young adults that have already come into contact with the criminal justice system, I will leverage my relationships and previous partnerships with local businesses, state agencies and community organizations to connect

these youth with jobs and apprenticeships. I also commit to ensuring that all of the reforms mandated in the new criminal justice law -- like making sure that there are youth probation officers, that young adult units are created in the Houses of Correction (18–24 years old), that the task force on trauma informed juvenile care is created -- are fully implemented.

JUVENILE LIFE SENTENCE PAROLE ELIGIBILITY



The Massachusetts Parole Board has a reputation for granting a relatively low rate of parole. The DA plays an important role in parole hearings, including all juvenile lifer parole release hearings. Given the rulings for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the US Supreme Court's ruling that juveniles are less culpable and have greater capacity for change, what factors would you consider when recommending or opposing parole? What steps will you take if the Parole Board continues to grant parole to only a small fraction of eligible juvenile lifers?



EVANDRO CARVALHO

When it comes to juveniles lifers, we're already going in the right direction by eliminating automatic life without parole. As DA, I will immediately meet with the Parole board about this issue and do further research as to why so few continue to be paroled. I believe the board may be paying too much attention to the original crime instead of what the person has done while incarcerated. I believe victims, survivors, and other stakeholders should continue to have a voice at parole hearings.



LINDA CHAMPION

Juvenile lifers are serving time for 1st degree murder. While the DA has no direct role in advocating before the Parole Board whether we oppose will be based upon the individual circumstances presented and I would want to know how the survivors of the homicide feels about the request, what is the life plan for the individual, and what support systems will be put in place.



GREG HENNING

I believe in an approach which carefully considers the parolee, his life circumstances, the victim and the victim's life circumstances, the victim's family's wishes, the specifics of each case, efforts of the defendant while in custody, conduct of the defendant while in custody, and any other relevant factors before any decision - especially one as serious as this one -- is made.



MICHAEL MALONEY

The propensity for violence is the primary variable in determining whether my administration would support or oppose one's parole eligibility. I will also implement a five-member task force charged with re-sentencing in cases where individuals were given unduly harsh punishments in non-violent cases. Sheriff Thompkins will be asked to serve as one of these members.

JUVENILE LIFE SENTENCE PAROLE ELIGIBILITY



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SHANNON MCAULIFFE

Currently the Suffolk County DA's Office takes a "one-size-fits-all" approach and in every single parole case sends a representative to object to parole. This shows an inability to use discretion reasonably which should be a main ingredient in any DA's office. I believe parole serves many important purposes: rewards rehabilitation, holds the person accountable after release, and offers guidance, navigation and advice that is simply required for successful and safe re-entry. Factors my office will consider:

1. Offense;
2. Harm to the victim;
3. Victim's opinion;
4. Age and vulnerabilities of the victim;
5. Age of the defendant;
6. Defendant's history of trauma, violence, and other proven effects on brain development;
7. Amount of prison time served;
8. Progress and growth in prison if services offered in the facility;
9. Behavior in prison;
10. Remorse, lack of remorse and/or innocence claim;
11. Plan upon release; and,
12. Any extraordinary circumstances.



RACHAEL ROLLINS

In 2013, the Massachusetts SJC invalidated a law allowing the sentence of mandatory life without parole for juvenile homicide offenders. That ruling was retroactive and required that eligible offenders who had served a minimum of 15 years be afforded parole hearings.

According to the latest available data, of the 63 individuals impacted by this ruling, 10 have been paroled, 1 was released after pleading guilty to a lesser charge when granted a new trial, and 20 have been denied parole. The

remaining 32 individuals are either awaiting parole, have requested postponements, or have a release date provided that they meet certain requirements.

Because the law didn't change until 2013, none of these individuals were ever considered eligible for release. Accordingly, they were likely excluded from programs that would have significantly assisted in their rehabilitation. As DA, I would advocate that all prisoners be eligible for services provided behind the wall -- counseling services, batterers programs, parenting classes, financial literacy, restorative justice programs, anger management counseling, job training, and education services. When recommending or opposing parole, I will strongly consider the whether individuals have successfully completed any of these types of programs, and taken responsibility for their actions.

VOTER GUIDE PARTNERS

Citizens for Juvenile Justice
www.cfjj.org



I Have a Future
www.ihaveafuturema.org



Greater Boston Legal Services
CORI and Re-entry Project
www.gbpls.org



National Association of Social Workers - MA Chapter
www.naswma.org



GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
www.glad.org



Roca
www.rocainc.org



The Home for Little Wanderers
www.thehome.org



Strategies for Youth
www.strategiesforyouth.org

