Mass incarceration is not just a national dilemma, it is a local epidemic that is crippling communities across Los Angeles. L.A. County is home to the nation’s largest jail system and has an incarceration rate that is drastically higher than the state’s average. Local and state prosecutors hold extraordinary power to stop mass incarceration and reform the criminal justice system. How they exercise discretion at each stage of criminal proceedings—from initial charging decisions to the sentences they seek—determines whether the local justice system is fair and just. They also wield significant influence as policymakers and civic leaders, and can work with legislators, judges, public defenders, law enforcement, and other community stakeholders to advance justice through policy reforms.

L.A. County’s overreliance on incarceration is both costly and ineffective: it exacts enormous financial, emotional, and social costs on communities while exacerbating racial disparities and wasting finite resources. Harsh punishment does not improve public safety—the threat of increased sentences does not deter crime, either among the general public or convicted persons, and, because the experience of imprisonment is criminogenic, the imposition of longer terms of incarceration may actually heighten the likelihood that incarcerated individuals will reoffend upon release. Incarceration also entirely fails to address the underlying issues or needs that lead to criminal activity in the first instance.

Given the influence the L.A. County District Attorney wields as a policymaker and civic leader with the legislature, state and local officials, and other community stakeholders, this office should deploy its substantial power to advance justice through policy reforms. This questionnaire evaluates whether District Attorney candidates are committed to implementing the principles that will end mass incarceration and build a safer and more just America.

*George Gascón declined to answer yes or no to certain questionnaire questions. Gascón instead provided explanatory responses, which have been provided in the 'Gascón’s Supplemental Answers’ link.*

1. Poverty and the Criminal Justice System
2. The Prosecution and Sentencing of Juveniles
3. Recognizing Capacity for Change
4. Transparency and Accountability to the Community
5. Addressing Addiction
6. Immigration Considerations
7. Punishment and Public Safety

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#1: POVERTY AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Money Bail

As we await the fate of The California Money Bail Reform Act (SB 10), Los Angeles County remains home to the largest jail population in the country, with individuals being held pretrial making up almost half of the number of people behind bars. The detention of those who can't afford bail is crippling our communities and making us all less safe. However, because of the flawed nature of pretrial risk assessments, there is a serious risk that SB 10, if implemented, will massively increase preventive detention, not lower pretrial incarceration rates.

What is your assessment of SB 10?

I believe the money bail system is inherently unequal and wrong. I was the first prosecutor in the state to call for an end to money bail in 2011. Money is a terrible proxy for risk. We must continue to evolve and find ways to provide pre-trial community safety with a mind set of presumptive release unless evidence of public safety risk can be established by clear and convincing evidence during an evidentiary process. SB 10 needs additional work. However, I don't believe the solution is to go back to money bail. Community safety depends on thoughtful and unbiased review of risk not money.

If you believe the money bail system should be replaced, and you had a blank canvas, what is your ideal system for determining pretrial release?

I have been working with our courts to move toward a system based on risk rather than wealth since 2011. I believe that evidentiary hearing assisted by risk-based systems that aren't based on factors susceptible to historically discriminatory practices are better alternatives to money bail.

If SB 10 is implemented, will your office take a default position of release on recognizance for all defendants, unless there is a clearly articulated substantial risk of harm to the community or high likelihood of flight?

- Yes
- No
Will you advocate for individualized, adversarial bail hearings, at which the defendant is represented by counsel?

- Yes
- No

If SB 10 is not implemented, will you advocate for judges to consider non-monetary conditions of release and a defendant’s ability to pay before requiring and setting money bail?

- Yes
- No

Will you oppose the imposition of bail in amounts greater than an individual defendant’s ability to pay?

- Yes
- No

Regardless of the decision by voters on SB 10, will you adopt a written bail policy where your deputy district attorneys advocate for release for all individuals unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the person has attempted to flee to evade prosecution or poses a substantial risk of harm to another person that can be clearly articulated?

- Yes
- No
If release on recognizance is insufficient to protect against willful flight or an identifiable risk safety risk, will you require that deputy district attorneys only seek the least restrictive conditions necessary to accomplish those goals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Accessibility of Diversion Programs

Pretrial diversion creates opportunities for people charged with an offense to get the support and education necessary for rehabilitation, and allows successful individuals to avoid the collateral consequences of a conviction, which can be detrimental to future employment, housing, and education. Pretrial diversion should be available to anyone eligible to participate in the program, irrespective of an individual’s ability to pay a fine or fee.

What are the biggest flaws in L.A. County’s current diversion programs?

The current diversion programs simply do not go far enough, and the criteria for eligibility is too limited. This reflects a broader culture of the office that focuses on punishment at the expense of rehabilitation, recidivism and long-term community safety. I hope to help reduce the criminal justice system footprint and create a path to reinvest these savings in mental health and social services, which are more likely to have a long-lasting impact in community and individual health. Part of this process will include creating impactful pretrial diversion programs run by mental health professionals.
How should the L.A. County DA handle the nearly 3,000 individuals who are currently detained, but eligible for release under the County's new mental health diversion program?

Incarcerating the mentally ill isn't humane and doesn't achieve results for our community or the accused, and the current system of care for the mentally ill suffers from a lack of resources and coordination. All too often, this results in individuals with mental illness who enter the criminal justice system being released from our hospitals and jails without adequate treatment. Simply adding mental illness treatment services to traditional jails does not adequately address the root problems since correctional facilities are designed for punishment and control, rather than treatment and rehabilitation. Therefore, I would advocate for regional behavioral health justice centers to keep the mentally ill out of our jails in the first place. This is a concept I developed with four experts in the field of criminal justice and behavioral health, and it is a coordinated system of care that ensures public safety by providing mental health services designed to interrupt the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and criminal activity. Central to the concept is a system of interconnected components that creates a continuum of mental health care services. The BHJC would provide, for the first time, a purposeful, coordinated system of care with different levels of service and appropriate treatment options for individuals with mental illness in the justice system. Each BHJC has four tiers of service and treatment to address four distinct levels of need.

As for the 3,000 currently incarcerated, I believe we need to significantly expand the mental health diversion unit and its acceptance criteria, and work to ensure model programs like Behavioral Health Court are well-resourced and facilitating reentry treatment programs for this population in a timely fashion.

Will you eliminate all fees, costs, and fines associated with pretrial diversion programs?

- Yes
- No
If fees cannot be eliminated in all cases, will you create a robust fee-waiver program?

- Yes
- No

Will you implement a policy that instructs deputy district attorneys to proactively seek to identify defendants with mental health issues who can be safely diverted to community based treatment centers?

- Yes
- No

Criminalization of Poverty

Local criminal justice systems disproportionately harm people living in poverty. Whether through the imposition of fines and fees as a condition to resolving cases, or through laws that effectively criminalize homelessness, local actors have imposed a poverty penalty on many people within our communities.

Will you presumptively decline to prosecute misdemeanor offenses when they are the byproduct of an individual’s homelessness or poverty, such as public urination, open container violations, theft of necessities, and trespass?

- Yes
- No

#2: THE PROSECUTION AND SENTENCING OF JUVENILES

Children’s brains continue developing until around the age of 25 and research supports their enhanced capacity for rehabilitation. As a result, children should not be prosecuted in adult court, nor should they be given punishments that preclude the opportunity for redemption. The overwhelming support for Proposition 57 underscored this notion by eliminating the practice of direct file by prosecutors. SB 1391, signed into law in 2018, also prohibits 14 and 15-year olds from being prosecuted in adult court.
Absolutely. The Los Angeles District Attorney’s office must end the prosecution of children as adults in our legal system. Young people must be given an opportunity to make amends for their crimes through the appropriate venues. Subjecting our children to adult-level punishment is immoral, and on Day 1, I would put an end to this practice.

How will you instruct your deputy district attorneys to apply the science related to brain development to their treatment of juvenile cases, particularly when evaluating the voluntariness and reliability of statements made by juveniles outside the presence of a guardian or attorney?

I fully intend to create a pre-file diversion program for juveniles in Los Angeles. As District Attorney, I established the highly successful restorative justice program, Make It Right, which is one approach I would take to improving outcomes for juveniles in the system in LA. As for statements made to police, kids simply do not have the capacity to understand their rights and are easily susceptible to pressure. I believe no questioning of a minor should occur outside of the presence of their families or an attorney.

Will you commit to implementing SB 1391 to keep 14 and 15 year olds out of adult court?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Will you support SB 439 by promptly determining the age of arrested juveniles and publicly encouraging the police department to develop protocol that limits the arrest of juveniles under the age of 12 years old, in accordance with the provisions of the Bill?

- Yes
- No

#3: RECOGNIZING CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

Promote Proportionate Sentencing and Pathways to Second Chances

People are more than their worst acts, and even people who commit the most serious offenses often change their lives profoundly over time. To recognize the worth and potential for growth in all people, it is important for local prosecutors to consider the character and background of each person and the individualized circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense. It also is critical for elected prosecutors to promote opportunities for release, through parole or clemency, and to help remove barriers to reentering society for those who are released from incarceration.

What role, if any, do you believe a prosecutor should play in advocating for parole?

I have a long and public history of advocating for changes to the parole system. Where an offender has demonstrated that they have been rehabilitated, or where an overly harsh sentence from the past is reviewed and it is determined that the prosecutor wouldn’t have sought such a sentence modernly, justice requires that the prosecutor advocate for parole. Additionally, restrictions imposed on people under supervision, such as prohibiting them from obtaining a driver’s license, routinely limit, rather than promote, their ability to work, attend school and meaningfully reunite with and support their families. Too often, the very systems purported to facilitate re-entry into society and help maintain community ties do the opposite, setting people up to fail and sending them deeper into the criminal justice system.
Will you adopt a policy limiting the application of Three Strikes sentencing in your office, and require line prosecutors to obtain written approval from a supervising prosecutor before seeking enhanced sentences under the Three Strikes Law?

- Yes
- No

Will you establish an office-wide presumption that the least severe applicable charges apply, and that the lowest sentencing outcome is the correct recommendation?

- Yes
- No

Will you require prosecutors to justify upward departures to their supervisors, and require that a chief deputy district attorney who reports to you directly approve all maximum sentences sought?

- Yes
- No

Will you pledge to establish an office policy against increasing or threatening to increase the number or severity of charges in order to secure more favorable plea dispositions or waivers of rights?

- Yes
- No
Will you support second chances, even for those who commit serious offenses, by both limiting parole opposition to those cases in which there is a demonstrable and serious risk of future violence and committing to affirmatively advocate for parole on behalf of those who demonstrate growth and maturity during their incarceration?

- Yes
- No

Will you commit to never using “gang enhancements,” which seek to criminalize innocent behavior based on who a defendant is, not what he or she does?

- Yes
- No

#4: TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY

Engage with the Community You Represent

Enhancing transparency and accountability within the District Attorney's office is critical to ending the win-at-any-cost pursuit of high conviction rates that fails communities and to ensuring community accountability. Providing the community with information about arrest rates, charging decisions, and sentencing policies will help build and maintain trust between the office and the community it serves.
How do you intend to ensure the community can hold you accountable for fulfilling your campaign promises?

Accessibility is central to my style of leadership. I have a proven inclusive leadership style and if elected DA in Los Angeles I would continue to employ many of the same practices that made me accessible to the communities I served, as well as, adapt and evolve as necessary to ensure we are continuously improving accessibility. Here are a few examples of my previous work concerning community access that I plan to employ:

As San Francisco’s DA, I created a number of community advisory groups to facilitate direct communication with me and ensure our policy decisions were thoroughly vetted with other stakeholders. I also made regular appearances at various community meetings and kept open lines of communication with community leaders everywhere. Additionally, I created a Neighborhood Prosecutors’ program permanently assigning line prosecutors to the community by police districts to work directly with neighborhood leadership and the police on community safety issues.

Finally, throughout my tenure, I have embraced technology as a means for intelligently addressing public safety and to connect law enforcement with the community they serve. I was an early proponent of data driven management/leadership to ensure limited public resources were deployed based on community needs. I launched the state’s first website showing prosecution data, called DAStat, to enhance public accountability and provide the public with meaningful performance metrics. I also launched the first public portal related to critical use of force incidents.

Additionally, I used technology to enhance equity and transparency in charging decisions for the people that elected me, by launching the nation’s first artificial intelligence tool to eliminate race information from charging decisions and reduce the risk that implicit bias was impacting charging decisions, and implemented protocols to safely move away from cash bail and reduce pre-trial detentions.

While it’s not new technology, I also implemented a Consumer Fraud Hotline and Hate Crimes Hotline to make my office more accessible to victims in the community. I also worked with Code For America to develop an algorithm that is being used by District Attorney’s Offices around the country to clear old marijuana convictions, and communicated this effort through traditional and social media in order to make sure the community knew that they were getting the relief to which they were entitled. That, in turn, is giving thousands of people employment, housing and educational opportunities, and hope. Seeing the huge benefits that we brought to so many people through the program with Code For America, I decided to go further, and sponsored a bill in the state legislature that will automatically clear 1 million eligible records in
the first 5 years with an algorithm.

I personally use email, Twitter and Facebook to regularly connect with constituents, but of course, nothing beats actual face time to bring people together.

Will you maintain and publish an electronic case management system to measure the overall effectiveness of the office—including the number of misdemeanor and felony cases filed each month, disposition statistics, pretrial incarceration rates and length of stay by offense category, and average bond for each class of offense—so that the community can determine the effectiveness of policies aimed at reform?

- Yes
- No

Will you commit to regular communication with community members and organizations, including regularly scheduled open sessions and regular meetings with civilian oversight boards to listen to and then address concerns over police-community relationships and allegations of police brutality?

- Yes
- No

Ensure Accountability for Police and Other Officials

The District Attorney must be committed to rigorously and independently investigating and prosecuting police and other official misconduct. Although charged with serving and protecting, some police officers have also engaged in misconduct and violence against our communities, especially communities of color. Relations between Angelenos and law enforcement are at a breaking point. Since 2013, more than 500 people have been killed by, or have died in the custody of, county law enforcement. However, criminal charges have only been brought against one officer. Ensuring law enforcement is held accountable is imperative for creating trust between law enforcement and the community.
What is the most effective way to address officer-involved shootings and officer misconduct?

Police shootings should not be investigated by other police officers – and particularly those from the same agency. It creates an inherent conflict of interest that diminishes the community's faith in the outcome of any investigation, including those that are conducted properly. Furthermore, in an ideal world the DA for the jurisdiction would not be involved in the investigation and prosecution of officer involved shootings in their jurisdiction. We should have a statewide independent body that performs this function. Unfortunately, given the size of California, it has been difficult to establish a statewide body or to vest such authority in the Attorney General’s Office. In the absence of such changes, I would do what I have done before, and create an Independent Investigations Bureau or Civil Rights Division of attorneys and investigators that solely work on police on duty use of force incidents and officer misconduct. Since they will have no other contact with police, the conflicts associated with investigating and prosecuting officers with whom you know personally are therefore minimized. Furthermore, I believe the law around use of force laws needs to change. I was the only law enforcement official in the state to advocate for passage of AB 392 – and I did so prior to the law being watered down such that it only alters the civil standard for use of force.

Will you commit to the creation of a special prosecution unit to investigate and charge allegations of police misconduct, including police-involved violence and corruption?

☐ Yes

☐ No

When legally able to do so, will you release to the public any dash-camera, body-camera, or other audio or video footage related to police-involved misconduct within 24 hours of any charging decision?

☐ Yes

☐ No
Will you commit to requiring a full investigation of any allegation involving police corruption or violence by the special prosecution unit, to include indictment?

- Yes
- No

Will you commit to developing and implementing a “Do Not Call” list, and require all prosecutors in your office to decline cases that rely on statements from officers with histories of misconduct, dishonesty, racism, or bias?

- Yes
- No

Will you commit to requiring a full investigation of any allegation involving police corruption or violence by the special prosecution unit, including presentation to the grand jury?

- Yes
- No

Will you use SB1421 to request police disciplinary files, expose law enforcement misconduct and build a list of all officers under investigation, and provide that list to defense counsel?

- Yes
- No
Develop Policies that Ensure the Integrity of Convictions

Law enforcement officials and prosecutors will inevitably make mistakes. The consequences of wrongful convictions are manifold; the innocent person spends years in prison for a crime s/he did not commit, and the person who committed the crime is not held accountable. Prosecutors must be vigorous in re-examining prior cases whenever there is credible evidence of innocence, and must develop policies that limit the possibility of future wrongful convictions. Despite being the largest prosecutorial office in the country, the L.A. County DAs office has only overturned three convictions since the Conviction Review Unit was established in 2015. By contrast, Baltimore has exonerated nine people in four years and Philadelphia has exonerated ten in one year.

Do you believe that the Conviction Review Unit can or should improve the speed, scope and number of its exonerations? If so, how would you do so?

Absolutely. The fact that it took DA Lacey seven years from the time she received notice that Mr. Ruben Martinez Jr. was innocent from homicide detectives before he was released speaks to how broken this unit is. Principally this division needs to be adequately resourced with additional staff. There are a significant number of cases awaiting review and therefore it's clear that a model with several additional attorneys upfront makes the most sense. After the initial cases are reviewed the staffing could be reduced.

Will you create a review process for all discretionary decisions, from charging through disposition, where senior staff examine whether there is sufficient evidence to support the charges and whether the decision is consistent with the office's policy of seeking the least severe acceptable charges?

☐ Yes
☐ No
Will you develop clear office guidelines regarding the use of forensic evidence and instill respect for scientific methodology, evidence, and analysis?

- Yes
- No

Will you conduct regular Brady trainings, require prosecutors to turn over all evidence that arguably falls within the Brady rule, and discipline prosecutors who fail to comply with their Brady obligations?

- Yes
- No

#5: ADDRESSING ADDICTION

Keep people out of jail for drug-related reasons

Years of experience with ineffective drug laws and the latest medical research on addiction suggest that treating drug use as a public health issue, as opposed to a criminal justice issue, is a more effective approach to reducing harm. With the passage of Propositions 47, 57, and 64, California voters have sent a clear message that they do not want people serving harsh sentences for drug crimes.

Will you pledge to oppose any legislation or ballot initiatives that roll back or weaken Propositions 47, 57, and 64?

- Yes
- No
Will you adopt declination and/or diversion programs for all low-level drug offenses, including possession, possession for sale, and the sale or transport of controlled substances?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you publicly support legislation that reclassifies all drug possession offenses as misdemeanors?

☐ Yes

☐ No

#6: IMMIGRATION CONSIDERATIONS

California is home to a large and diverse immigrant population. In the last two years, undocumented communities have come under increasing attack because of vicious federal immigration laws. These policies not only allow for deportation because of minor allegations like possession of drugs, but they also make communities less safe, as undocumented victims fear going to court or speaking to law enforcement.
What, if any, is a deputy district attorney's role in the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

A deputy district attorney does not have any role in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. As an immigrant myself, I know the importance and value that immigrant communities bring to the United States. During my time in public service I have stood up on behalf of immigrant communities time and again—whether it was meeting with immigrants to make them know they were safe and working with them to rally against Donald Trump’s demands that local authorities enforce federal immigration laws, or to offer direct protection to those targeted by the federal government. As Police Chief in Mesa, Arizona, I took on the racist, anti-immigrant policies of Sheriff Joe Arpaio because targeting immigrants is both wrong and lose sight of the bigger issues that our justice system faces. As is par for the course, I was personally attacked by anti-immigration forces because of my defense of this vulnerable community, but I never backed down.

While I was San Francisco District Attorney, I established several Advisory Boards that my office personally engaged with on pressing issues in the immigrant community. The committee identified immigration fraud as one of the major concerns among Latinos and the Chinese communities in San Francisco. In response to this feedback, my office worked with the Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Immigrant Legal Resource Center and CARECEN the Asian Law Caucus and others to launch a variety of immigration fraud public education campaigns to empower and protect some of our most vulnerable neighbors from would-be scammers. Also, in response to fears that Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers were in courtrooms across California, I sponsored Senate Bill 785 to ensure attorneys don’t unnecessarily broadcast immigration status in open court.

These are just some of the concrete examples of how I have not only stood up to President Trump and others on the issue of immigration but also put into place programs to further support our immigrant communities. I owe my track record of successfully bringing down crime in the cities I’ve worked in by building trust with all residents. As District Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, I will continue to support and defend those most vulnerable to the fear-mongering and lies spread by anti-immigrant groups.
Will you expand pre-plea diversion programs that allow individuals to obtain dismissals of their charges without entering a guilty plea? Please describe how you intend to expand these programs, including whether you intend to establish new programs, expand eligibility under existing programs, or otherwise.

Yes. From programs for young people such as Make It Right to programs for adults like neighborhood courts, I have designed innovative pre plea diversion programs that are being duplicated across the country. I will implement such programs as District Attorney of LA, and I’m confident that there is significant room to expand eligibility under any existing pre-plea diversionary programs.

In light of Padilla and Cal. Penal Code §§ 1016.2-3, will you take into account the disproportionate impact of adverse immigration consequences when making policy, charging, negotiation, plea, and sentencing decisions, as required by both the letter and spirit of California law?

- Yes
- No
- Option 1

Will you implement an office-wide policy requiring prosecutors to consider immigration consequences in the charging, plea, and sentencing recommendation decisions?

- Yes
- No
Will you publicly support local ordinances and statewide legislation that affirmatively limit law enforcement’s cooperation with ICE, and oppose any effort to enlist local law enforcement as federal immigration agents?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you affirmatively support post-conviction litigation from non-citizens who pled guilty without being advised of the potential immigration consequences of their pleas?

☐ Yes

☐ No

#7: PUNISHMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

When is punishment productive or necessary?

Research reveals that, for minor offenses, prosecution and punishment decreases rather than increases public safety. Even misdemeanor convictions, short jail terms, or brief probationary sentences can weaken social ties, cause job or housing losses, and interfere with prosocial activities, which are critical to preventing recidivism. These effects, therefore, actually increase the likelihood that the individual will commit future offenses.

How should a deputy district attorney respond to evidence showing that prosecuting and punishing individuals for minor offenses does not reduce offending among the public and actually increases, rather than decreases, the likelihood of reoffending among those prosecuted?

We need to fundamentally change the metrics of success for deputy district attorneys. Where convictions and length of sentence are the current barometers of success, my fundamental, primary goal as LADA will be to shift this culture such that it values outcomes that achieve rehabilitation and reduced recidivism. In practice, this means creating a culture that embraces and looks first to alternatives to incarceration such as diversion.
Will you presumptively decline to prosecute low-level misdemeanors, where evidence shows prosecution actually decreases, rather than increases, public safety?

- Yes
- No

Will the existence of monetary losses conclusively determine whether an offense is prosecuted or whether a certain penalty is sought?

- Yes
- No

Will you presumptively decline to prosecute prostitution-related offenses and publicly support the decriminalization of sex work?

- Yes
- No

Where declination is not possible or appropriate, will you establish and offer expansive pre-charge or pre-plea diversion programs for misdemeanor offenses?

- Yes
- No

Restraint in Charging and Fair Plea Bargaining

District Attorneys have nearly unchecked authority to set priorities and choose the criminal charges they file, with enormous leverage over guilty pleas and the final disposition of cases.
Would you consider declining to file or pursue charges where particular law enforcement practices (like equipment stops, for example) or arrests lead to significant racial disparities? Why or why not?

Absolutely. Not only is that a miscarriage of justice but if a police officer makes an arrest based on explicit bias or profiling any evidence that officer would provide in such a case may be tainted and it should not be presented in court.

Will you commit to only charging offenses where they are clearly supported by sufficient evidence to prove the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on each charge?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you commit to never conditioning plea offers on the pursuit of pretrial motions to suppress premised on potential constitutional violations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you refuse to prosecute broken-windows offenses such as criminal trespass, public urination, and metro-fare violations?

☐ Yes

☐ No
Will you refuse to prosecute regulatory violations such as selling food without a license and driving a taxi without a license?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**Do Not Seek the Death Penalty**

California has more than twice as many people on death row than any other state. LA County alone has sent 22 people to death row over the past seven years, all of whom have been people of color. There is mounting evidence that the death penalty is fraught with error, provides no additional public safety benefit over other available sentences, and is routinely used against individuals with diminished culpability, including persons with intellectual disabilities and severe mental illness, youthful offenders under the age of 21, and those who have experienced extreme childhood trauma. The District Attorney must support the end of this barbaric, error-prone and expensive practice.

Do you support Governor Newsom’s moratorium on death penalty executions?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Will you commit to never seeking the death penalty?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Will you publicly support repeal of the death penalty?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Will you examine previously-imposed death sentences within your county and seek negotiated resolutions for sentences less than death, particularly when there is substantial evidence that the death-sentenced individual suffers from an intellectual disability or serious mental illness, or was under the age of 21 at the time of the offense, or experienced childhood trauma?

- Yes
- No

Lengthy Prison Sentences

Research reveals that extremely lengthy prison sentences do not promote public safety. They do nothing to deter criminal conduct; even for those who have committed acts of violence, they often incapacitate people for much longer than necessary to prevent future danger, and they break down familial ties and other social bonds that hinder an individual’s ability to rebuild his or her life once released.

What factors should a prosecutor consider in determining an appropriate sentence in a given case?

The incapacitation benefit must be weighed against the length of sentence in the context of its impacts on rehabilitative prospects and likelihood of recidivism. 95 percent of the individuals we send to prison will return to our communities. So as a starting point, I will implement a policy requiring prosecutors to consult with a superior before pursuing sentences of 15 years or more.

Will you commit to not seeking incarcerative sentences longer than 15 years, unless there is clear evidence that public safety, rather than retributive concerns, requires it?

- Yes
- No
Do you commit to reviewing sentencing data, determining what offenses and practices are disproportionately driving incarceration, and then implementing plea guidelines in your office to address areas of concern?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Mass Probation

Probation is a significant contributor to mass incarceration. Though it was originally intended to serve as an alternative to incarceration to help people stay in their communities while they engaged in rehabilitative interventions, it has transformed into a system geared towards surveillance. Probation has also skyrocketed since 1980: more people are being supervised, and they are being supervised for longer periods of time. Prison admissions because of probation violations have similarly ballooned.

Under what circumstances should a term of probation be revoked and an incarcerative sentence imposed?

Too many people are violated for technical issues. Revocation and incarceration is only appropriate where a probationer has shown that they continue to pose a risk to the public, have not been rehabilitated (which necessarily requires our system put a greater emphasis on rehabilitation) and where the violation reflects one or both of these realities.

Additionally, the approach to negotiated dispositions needs to fundamentally change. Instead of pursuing the maximum punishment because prosecutors view success through the lens of convictions and years in prison, my goal will be to have a system that rewards and values dispositions that lead to reduced recidivism. As a result, if dispositions reflect this new dynamic and a person violates the terms of their probation, I would be more likely to support the imposition of an incarcerative sentence because the terms and conditions of such a sentence would be tailored enhance the likelihood that the individual will not reoffend.
Will you request and offer limited probation conditions in each case and seek only conditions that relate directly to the rehabilitative goal of the supervision?

- Yes
- No

Will you liberally offer early termination at sentencing, and support probationer requests for discretionary early termination, when the rehabilitative goal of probation has been fulfilled?

- Yes
- No

Will you publicly support legislation to limit incarcerative responses to technical violations of probation?

- Yes
- No