WHAT IS A DISTRICT ATTORNEY?
The District Attorney is the chief prosecutor for a local government area in Alabama. DAs are responsible for presenting cases, directing criminal investigations, and setting policy that influences how the system works in a particular county.

DAs make decisions about:
- CHARGING - When and what crimes to charge people with.
- BAIL - Whether to recommend cash bail or release while a person waits for trial.
- SENTENCING - What to recommend for number of years in prison, fines and fees owed, and parole opportunities.

WHAT IS SMART JUSTICE?
Smart Justice Alabama is a nonpartisan education campaign funded by the ACLU of Alabama, a registered 501(c)4 organization. The ACLU of Alabama does not endorse candidates.

The ACLU of Alabama advocates for a criminal justice reform dedicated to rehabilitation and restoration that will support public safety, instead of increasing the number of people in jail and in prison.

We work to ensure that constitutional rights apply to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. We also challenge broken criminal justice systems and advocate for policy reform.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
The Most Powerful Person in the Criminal Justice System

LEARN MORE AT ALABAMADA.ORG

Are you ready for election day?

Your candidates
- Mike Anderton, R - andertonforda.com
- Danny Carr, D - votedannycarr.com

Your vote
- Register to vote by October 22, 2018
- Apply for an absentee ballot by November 1, 2018
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 6, 2018
- Polling Hours: 7am - 7pm
- Vote after 7pm if you’re in line by 7.

Your voter ID
- Driver’s license (any state)
- Alabama non-driver ID
- Alabama photo voter ID
- US passport or government employee ID
- Student ID from post-high school institution in Alabama
- Military, Tribal, or Prison ID

Your rights
- To vote for any candidate regardless of how you voted during the primary or previous election.
- To cast a regular ballot if status is "inactive". You may have to update your registration information.
- To cast a provisional ballot if not listed or forgot ID.
- To vote with privacy.
- To get help, including for translation as long as it is not from a union rep or employer.
- To be free from campaigners.
- To have an ADA accessible polling place.
- To call and leave a message with the ACLU of Alabama hotline at (334) 420-1748 if you have a complaint about voting on Election Day. This is not intended to offer assistance or legal advice.
District Attorneys can support criminal justice reform.  If they want to.

**CHARGING**

Once you’ve been arrested for an alleged criminal activity, DAs can decide to charge or not charge someone.

**DECLINE TO CHARGE**

DAs can decline to prosecute if it isn’t a good use of resources, such as low-level marijuana possession.

**CHOOSE LESSER DEGREE OF CHARGE**

Whether a charge is a violation, misdemeanor, or felony affects possible time spent in prison, costs, and other consequences such as loss of voting rights.

**OVERCHARGE**

Charging for the harshest possible offense or overcharging to scare people into a guilty plea deal leads to lengthier sentences, greater collateral consequences, and a higher rate of recidivism.

**BAIL**

If you’re charged with a crime, DAs can decide to advocate for or against release while someone is waiting for trial.

**NO BAIL**

Defendants remain incarcerated until trial.

**BAIL**

Defendants with money can pay for their freedom.

**ROR**

Defendants are released on promise to appear.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY’S NEXT DA CAN COMMIT TO:**

- Adopt a no-cash bail policy for misdemeanor offenses. The cash bail system unfairly punishes people who don’t have money for the precise reason that they don’t have money. Our justice system should not depend on how much money a person has.
- Disclose revenue from all sources on an annual basis, avoid revenue streams through the court system, and advocate for the elimination of the current court debt system. Excessive fines and fees saddle people with debt that is difficult to pay off. Falling behind may mean additional fines for late payments or a warrant for arrest, creating a cycle that keeps people trapped in the system.
- DIVERSION - Apply an objective standard to determine eligibility for diversion programs so that no one is denied based on ability to pay. People with money can pay $650-1500 to stay out of prison and, if they complete the program successfully, can have their charges dismissed. Making justice dependent on whether someone can pay for it is discriminatory and unconstitutional.
- FINES AND FEES - Disclose revenue from all sources on an annual basis, avoid revenue streams through the court system, and advocate for the elimination of the current court debt system. Excessive fines and fees saddle people with debt that is difficult to pay off. Falling behind may mean additional fines for late payments or a warrant for arrest, creating a cycle that keeps people trapped in the system.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY’S NEXT DA CAN COMMIT TO:**

- Stop prosecuting for possession of an ounce or less of marijuana and for drug paraphernalia. Marijuana convictions disproportionately hurt communities of color, and uses up time and resources that could be spent on more serious crimes.
- Adopt a no-cash bail policy for misdemeanor offenses. The cash bail system unfairly punishes people who don’t have money for the precise reason that they don’t have money. Our justice system should not depend on how much money a person has.