

MARICOPA COUNTY

ATTORNEY'S RACE 2022.

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Why are you running for county attorney?

I am running for Maricopa County Attorney to bring long-overdue criminal legal reform to our state that will make us safer, save taxpayers money, and work in the best interest of justice. For too long, this office has been a tool of the powerful and well-connected, serving their interests rather than equally serving everyone in our state.

I plan on restoring trust and transparency to this office and making smart, data-driven reforms. As County Attorney, I am focused on shining a light on this office and bringing transparency to each and every step of our criminal justice system. I am committed to holding those that do harm accountable — including law enforcement when lie, commit acts of violence, or break the law. I am also committed to upholding each and every Arizonans' reproductive rights. I will use prosecutorial discretion to ensure individuals procuring an abortion or doctors administering an abortion are not prosecuted. Finally, I am running to take down the corruption in this office and in our community.

Within the first 100 days of being sworn in for the 2022-2024 term, will you pledge to do the following?

1. Take action to address the racial disparities in Maricopa County's criminal justice system?

YES

NO

It's time to end the two tiered system of justice where Arizonans of color routinely face longer and harsher sentencing than their white counterparts. The MCAO needs to ensure that every person is treated equally in our criminal legal system. I plan on utilizing data from our sentencing to create a transparent data dashboard and allow the data to be disaggregated for use by academics and others studying criminal legal reform.

I plan on creating a full, up to date Brady list to ensure that law enforcement that has lied or implicated themselves will not be used for testimony on court cases. Additionally, we will create an independent prosecutorial unit to investigate police use of force and misconduct.

2. Implement an office-wide policy that treats all simple drug possession and drug paraphernalia possession cases as misdemeanors rather than felonies?



YES



NO

We need to treat addiction as the public health crisis it is rather than using incarceration as a one size fits all solution. I plan on using diversion, deflection programs, and other resources to help individuals suffering from addiction rather than incarcerating them and causing lasting damage to their lives. As Maricopa County Attorney, I will work together with our prosecutors, community organizations, and other government entities to find solutions.

3. Exercise your prosecutorial discretion:

Not to prosecute pregnant people for seeking or obtaining abortions, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned?*



YES



NO

Not to prosecute medical providers for performing abortions, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned?*



YES



NO

4. Pledge to exercise your prosecutorial discretion not to seek life sentences without the possibility of parole or de-facto life sentences for juveniles?



YES



NO

We need to treat kids like kids in our criminal legal system. It is not fair to prosecute juveniles as adults when we know their brains are still developing and they show potential for future growth. Juveniles incarcerated in adult prisons are more likely to suffer violence, die by suicide, and recidivate in the future. It's in the best interest of justice to treat them like children and work in the best interests of justice.

* This questionnaire was completed before the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, 2022.

5. Ensure that police officers are held accountable if they engage in misconduct by:

Creating an independent unit focused exclusively on police misconduct that is staffed with prosecutors who do not work alongside local law enforcement on a regular basis?

YES

NO

Creating an independent unit focused exclusively on police misconduct that is staffed with prosecutors who do not work alongside local law enforcement on a regular basis?

YES

NO

If you have other plans for ensuring that police officers are held accountable if they engage in misconduct, please outline them:

I have been unflinchingly clear in my stance on holding law enforcement and others accountable. I will create an independent prosecutorial unit that will investigate all police use of force and misconduct cases, as well as maintain an up-to-date Brady and no-call list violations. This group will answer directly to me and will be given the opportunities and resources to hold unethical and violent police officers accountable for their actions.

6. Implement training and policies to ensure that all prosecutors in your office comply with the Constitution and their ethical duties—and to hold them accountable if they fail to do so?

YES

NO

If YES, please outline any specific plans you have for ensuring that prosecutors in your office are held to the highest ethical standards:

The MCAO has an office culture that has led to high turnover and excessive overcharging in some of the most prominent cases. As County Attorney, I will come in with a new set of standards and ethical guidelines to ensure the office is pursuing justice in each and every case. Prosecutors that do not adhere to the new guidelines will be placed under review, reported to the bar consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct, and if there's no improvement they will be let go.

I plan on creating a conviction integrity unit to ensure the MCAO is not convicting innocent individuals and that the office is thorough and accountable in all cases.

Your Policies

7. Will you commit to adopting policies that will safely reduce Arizona's imprisonment rate, which is the fifth highest in the world and costing taxpayers \$1.3 billion a year?

YES

NO

If YES, please specify what those policies will be and your target reduction in our incarceration rate, if any.

As the County Attorney, I will work to increase diversion, treat kids like kids, treat mental illness and addiction as a public health crisis, and stop the overcharging that has become commonplace in the MCAO. My goal is to bring our incarceration rate down to the national average, in line with states like Utah to save taxpayers money.

8. Will you commit to not seeking the death penalty?

YES

NO

Will you commit to not seeking the death penalty against people with mental illness?

YES

NO

If you intend to seek the death penalty in any case, what standards will you use to determine whether the death penalty is appropriate?

I've spent the last two years speaking with directly impacted people in Arizona. While I realize that Arizonans are deeply divided on this issue, I continually hear from directly impacted families who believe that the death penalty is not real justice and does not provide true accountability for harm. When *Shinn v. Ramirez* was decided—a case that allows Arizona to execute people even when there is proof of actual innocence—it forced me to confront what these families have been saying for a long time. This is not justice.

Because of the racial disparities in who faces the death penalty, because of the record of botched executions, because of the high cost to the taxpayers, because of the multiple death penalty exonerations in Arizona's history, and because of the advocacy of directly impacted people who want to see real accountability replace vengeance in our legal system, I believe that the county attorney should not seek the death penalty.

9. Will you commit to testifying at the legislature truthfully, in accordance with the ethical rules for attorneys, and ensuring that your employees do so as well?

YES

NO

What do you see as the appropriate role of the County Attorney at the state legislature?

The County Attorney can be a voice for criminal legal reform and ensuring the Arizona state legislature is working in tandem with the office to pursue justice. I plan on using the bully pulpit of this office to work and enact reforms that will make our state safer.

10. Will you support legislative efforts to allow people who are incarcerated to earn “earned release credits,” incentivizing individuals to complete treatment prior to their release from prison?

YES

NO

11. Will you commit to maintaining or expanding MCAO’s diversion programs, which allow people to avoid prosecution if they complete community-based treatment or educational requirements?

YES

NO

12. Will you commit to maintaining or expanding MCAO’s recent changes to increase transparency, including creating a “data dashboard” and posting office policies online?

YES

NO

13. Will you support legislation to end the use of cash bail so that people who have not been convicted of any crime are not held in jail simply because they can't afford to buy their release?

YES

NO

14. Will you continue MCAO's existing policy of proactively seeking the expungement of criminal records for marijuana offenses legalized by Prop 207?

YES

NO

If there are other questions you believe we should have asked, or anything else you think voters should know about your campaign, please feel free to let us know.

I am the only candidate running on a platform of transformative justice for this office. Our campaign is focused on instituting reentry programs, treating mental health and addiction as a public health crisis, and creating effective solutions for community harm that address the root causes of violence and exploitation.