



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 District Attorney
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Djuna Perkins

Office Sought: District Attorney, Norfolk County

Party: Democrat

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General Questions

1. **Why are you running for office? And what would be your top 3 priorities if elected?**

With the stroke of a pen, the District Attorney can change a family's life forever. The person entrusted with the tremendous power to decide what and whom to prosecute must be someone with the highest level of skill, judgment, integrity and commitment to public service.

Thirty years ago, I chose a career in law to fight for those whose voices might otherwise be ignored. My legal career – including ten years serving as an Assistant District Attorney and Assistant Attorney General, and twenty in private practice – led me to conclude that the current District Attorney had failed its residents through a pattern of self-interested unethical behavior that destroyed the community's trust and directly harmed countless families. The most obvious was the District Attorney's failure to prosecute the murder of Sandra Birchmore, because if the government does not speak for the most vulnerable among us, we have no government at all. The damage to the justice system and the safety of our communities caused by mistrust of the current District Attorney is devastating.

I never envisioned running for public office, but in the current climate, I could not stand by and do nothing, because every resident deserves to feel safe, to be treated fairly, and to trust that no one is above the law.

So I decided to challenge the District Attorney, a long-established powerful political opponent, and became the first candidate in the race in September 2024, long before the District Attorney decided to retire.

My life's work—in the courtroom, in schools and colleges, and in the workplace—has involved holding offenders accountable for some of the worst acts human beings can commit, while also ensuring a fair process that results in smart, just outcomes that are trusted by the community and improve safety. The depth and breadth of my personal and professional experience give me the unique ability to substantially reform and rebuild a critically damaged government agency.

As District Attorney, I will demand excellence and the highest ethical standards. Prosecutions will be driven by a dogged determination to find the truth with respect for due process and an open mind free of bias, fear, or favor. I will aggressively prosecute those who prey on and cause harm to others, and I will use all available tools to achieve justice, prevent recidivism, and break cycles of incarceration, addiction, and poverty. I will build collaborative relationships between the district attorney's office and every community in Norfolk County to enhance public safety and restore the public's trust in our criminal justice system.

My overarching priority would be to restore the community's trust in the District Attorney's Office. Restoring trust requires unwavering commitment to the following:

- Professionalism: Rebuilding the District Attorney's Office into the county's top law office, reflecting the highest level of skill, ethics and principles of justice. Every case

will be evaluated on its individual merits based on the evidence, not on political or personal influence.

Trauma-informed prosecutors will empower victims and hold offenders accountable while also seeking to address the underlying causes of crime.

- **Transparency/Accountability:** Conducting a comprehensive audit and review of the District Attorney's office including personnel, prosecution protocols, budget and recent case decisions and publishing, to the extent legally permissible, the results of this audit.

- **Community Collaboration:** To restore the community's trust, the District Attorney must be visible and vocal about current issues throughout all the 28 towns and cities of Norfolk County. I will also actively engage with schools, other government agencies, non-profits and advocacy groups on issues of common concern so that we can respond when crime occurs in ways that empower victims and prevent future crime.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I am an attorney with over 30 years of experience as a prosecutor, litigator, and external consultant to educational institutions and employers. I served for ten years as a Massachusetts assistant attorney general (AAG) and assistant district attorney (ADA). As an AAG, I worked in the Narcotics Unit, the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, and in Appeals. As an ADA in Suffolk County, I was Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, where I prosecuted the most egregious crimes of domestic violence, established domestic violence prosecution protocols, and oversaw all domestic violence prosecutions in Suffolk County.

I entered the private practice of law in 2003, where I represented survivors of sexual abuse and harassment in litigation against offenders and responsible third parties, as well as the family of Julissa Brisman, who was allegedly murdered by "Craigslit Killer" Phillip Markov. An amicus brief I wrote to the state's highest court helped preserve a rule of evidence critical in sexual assault prosecutions. For the past thirteen years, I have consulted to K-12 schools, colleges and workplaces (including municipalities and police departments), conducting professional investigations of sexual misconduct and discrimination for internal discipline and providing recommendations for improvement to dozens of college presidents, heads of school, and CEOs all over Massachusetts.

My life experience also prepared me to be District Attorney, because it taught me that life for many of us can be full of hardship through no fault of our own, and that hardship can have devastating outcomes that lead both to victimization and criminal behavior.

When I was two weeks old, my mother died by suicide. Four months later, my father was stabbed during a riot in New York City and nearly died. In the wake of these events, my childhood was chaotic and marked by poverty and neglect. The adults in my life struggled with substance abuse and mental health disorders, and I have close relatives who have served time in state prison and juvenile detention. I had no medical or dental care for most of my childhood, but federal welfare programs such as food stamps, free lunch, Social Security survivors' benefits, federally guaranteed student loans and a Pell Grant helped me pull myself out of poverty to attend Smith College and then Boston University School of Law.

3. **Do you consider yourself progressive, and if so, how would you define “progressive”?**

I am progressive, I am the most progressive candidate running for Norfolk County District Attorney, and I am unafraid to wear that label with pride. To me, being progressive means that I am someone who believes that government plays a critical role in helping everyone reach their full potential—regardless of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, disability status or socioeconomic position—and that doing so makes our whole society healthier and more productive. I believe that everyone belongs, and that each of us is entitled to justice, due process, safety and opportunity.

I support policies that expand opportunity, promote justice, and strengthen our communities. I support economic fairness, strong public services, workers’ rights, affordable healthcare and housing, environmental protection, and strengthening democracy.

4. **Name two current or former DAs, anywhere in the U.S., whom you most admire for their approach to the office, and why?**

Ralph Martin and Bill Delahunt are the two District Attorneys I admire the most. Ralph Martin was my boss as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney’s office in 1990-91 and in the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office from 1997 -2002. My primary assignment for him in the USAO was investigating the conduct of the Boston Police in the wake of the 1989 Carol DiMaiti Stuart murder. From the first day we met, I knew Ralph was someone to emulate—because he was not only smart and skilled, but he was also empathetic, fair and pragmatic. He never let his ego get in the way of his decision-making, even when it was hard. I recognized in him many of my own personality traits, and working for him made me realize that I could be a prosecutor too.

As District Attorney, Ralph emphasized the importance of community policing, and engagement with the community by the District Attorney’s Office, because he knew that building relationships would earn the community’s trust, and that was critical to making us all safer. He also understood that the most important crimes were violent crimes and those in which vulnerable people were harmed. He told us to do the right thing, and never to consider politics in our decision-making. He backed this statement up by refusing to take campaign contributions from staff.

Our performance was never evaluated based on conviction rates, but rather, on our professional skills and dedication, regardless of the outcome of a case. He also supported staff when they made honest mistakes, using them as learning opportunities. When police departments and community members told Ralph about a safety concern, he put his head together with stakeholders and came up with a plan to address it together, establishing the Safe Neighborhood Initiative in several communities and a Domestic Violence Unit in Superior Court for the most serious offenders. He attracted talented leaders and line attorneys who professionalized criminal prosecution and transformed victim-witness services to provide far greater support and empowerment for survivors, accountability for the most serious offenders, and creative programs to prevent crime and recidivism.

I never knew Bill Delahunt personally, but his office was legendary when I was a prosecutor for its innovative approaches to prosecuting domestic violence (“the Quincy Model” for domestic violence prosecution is still known nationwide) and for attracting the best and most committed lawyers and victim-witness advocates to his office. Prosecutors who worked under DA Delahunt are considered among the best legal minds of their time, especially in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault; and many became judges and executives for other District Attorneys.

The policies and practices of both men led to a significant reduction of crime and increase in community safety and trust. I would strive to replicate the strengths of both as Norfolk County District Attorney.

5. **What is one specific policy or procedure instituted by another DA’s office you would like to replicate, if elected?**

I would publish monthly prosecution data on the District Attorney’s website, listing charges, disposition dates, and outcomes. If applicable, I would include information about the race of both the defendant and the victim. Currently, the only Massachusetts District Attorney who publishes prosecution information is Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan. I am also interested in establishing a restorative justice program and an Emerging Adults court.

6. **What is your view on the legacy of the War on Drugs, and how will you use your office to rectify the intergenerational impact of these policies and disrupt ongoing continuation of the War on Drugs?**

The War on Drugs, with its emphasis on minimum mandatory incarceration sentences, failed to reduce drug trafficking or addiction while fueling unjust sentences disproportionate to those imposed for violent crime and resulting in mass incarceration and racial disparities. I will prioritize prosecution of violent crimes and other crimes that exploit vulnerable populations (hate crimes, elder fraud, sexual exploitation); expand diversion programs and recovery services for minor drug-related offenses; limit the use of significant minimum mandatory sentences to drug traffickers; advocate for additional drug courts; and ensure that all drug prosecutions promote public health, accountability, and safer communities for everyone.

7. **What is your view on mass incarceration and how a prosecutor can help disrupt this phenomenon?**

Mass incarceration nationally has made our communities less just without making them significantly safer. While incarceration rates in Massachusetts are at historic lows, as District Attorney, I will continue to minimize unnecessary incarceration by limiting incarceration sentence recommendations to the most serious crimes, supporting alternatives to post-conviction detention for less serious crimes, expanding diversion programs that balance accountability with rehabilitative services, and reviewing case outcomes and sentencing practices to identify factors that contribute to racial and economic disparities in our justice system.

Alternatives to prosecution and incarceration

1. **What specific types of programs will you implement or expand related to individuals with mental health issues? Please give examples of programs in other jurisdictions that you would seek to replicate or adapt.**

Mental health plays a significant role in the criminal justice system. While people with mental health issues are more often victims of crime than perpetrators, many criminal defendants have mental health issues, and crime often causes mental health issues for victims. And victims and perpetrators with mental health conditions often have substance disorders as well. Thus, to prevent crime, we must address mental health issues and concomitant substance disorders. As District Attorney, I will first ensure that my staff are trained to understand the role of mental health issues in perpetration and victimization.

For perpetrators with mental health issues, our current drug court should be expanded to become a Drug and Mental Health Court, so that accountability can be balanced efficiently with rehabilitative services that will prevent recidivism and allow perpetrators to become productive citizens. For victims of crime with mental health issues, I support increasing the limit of victim compensation to allow victims greater access to comprehensive mental health services necessitated by the crime.

Several of our police departments have mental health co-response programs, which allow mental health clinicians to accompany or consult with police at the scene of an incident, help improve outcomes and safety for all involved. I support increased funding to establish co-response programs in each of our local police departments, as well as coordination and streamlining of these programs among all departments in our county.

I will also partner with public health agencies, clinicians, and community providers to direct appropriate cases toward treatment courts, crisis intervention, and supportive housing rather than incarceration. Trauma-informed practices, data-driven risk assessments, and coordinated reentry planning help reduce recidivism, stabilize individuals, and enhance public safety by addressing root causes of crime while maintaining clear consequences for serious offenses.

2. **What steps will you take to minimize the involvement of youth in the criminal legal system? How will you address disparities among municipalities across the district in handling school-related incidents involving students?**

Ending the school-to-prison pipeline means ensuring that all students in our community have opportunities to learn, develop skills, and build healthy relationships with peers and adults. As District Attorney, I will create partnerships in each community with schools and police departments to:

- Identify at-risk students and ways to support them and monitor progress outside the criminal justice system
- Develop school-based training programs for youth in social skills, life skills, creating healthy relationships and civics
- Support summer job, structured activities, and mentorship programs for youth
- Ensure that School Resource Officers, where they exist, engage with students regularly and provide support and mentorship to students

3. **What role, if any, do you think there is for SROs and the police in our schools?**

The school-to-prison pipeline is one of the biggest challenges facing at-risk youth. Police should not enforce school disciplinary policies; that is the job of school administrators. However, well-qualified and well-trained SROs can play a vital role in establishing trust between police departments and the communities they serve by engaging regularly with students in positive interactions and in acting as a liaison between the school and law enforcement.

A student who trusts an SRO may be more likely to report violence or abuse; an SRO who knows the students in their school can provide more accurate information to responding police when crimes occur, thereby reducing confirmation bias and implicit bias in criminal investigations; and an SRO may deter crime at school and provide critical immediate support in the event of a mass shooting or other emergency.

4. Under what circumstances would your office seek diversion and alternatives to incarceration?

As District Attorney, every case will be evaluated on its individual merits, balancing accountability and justice for victims of crime with addressing the root causes of crime to prevent recidivism. Incarceration recommendations will be reserved for the most serious crimes to remove the most dangerous offenders from the community and deliver justice where harm is greatest. Alternatives to incarceration are appropriate when they are sufficient to ensure community safety and justice, such as suspended sentences contingent upon completion of probation with conditions such as participation in counseling and drug treatment, or “straight” probation with conditions. Diversion is most appropriate in situations where the crime involves a first offense, a young offender, or when the crime was not motivated by malicious intent. Participation in restorative justice programs, which require acknowledgement and repair of the harm done, are also important factors in determining whether to recommend diversion or alternatives to incarceration.

Charging/Pre-Trial:

1. Do you support the elimination of cash bail? (Y/N) If not, under what circumstances do you think cash bail is appropriate?

No. The purpose of bail is to set an amount that will ensure a defendant’s return to court. (Failure to return results in the forfeiture of the bail money.) To be clear, I believe that pre-trial detention of poor defendants simply because they cannot afford to post bail is unfair. However, the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2018 already limits the circumstances when a judge can set cash bail in an amount higher than the defendant can afford; and most defendants are already released on personal recognizance (i.e., without having to post any bail). For those defendants with a significant criminal history, those with a pattern of failing to appear for court, and those who pose a specific risk of flight, cash bail is an important tool to ensure a return to court.

2. Under what circumstances would you move for dangerousness/58A?

The District Attorney may only request that a defendant be held without bail (dangerousness/58A hearings) for certain violent crimes and drug trafficking

offenses. Dangerousness hearings should be reserved for those situations—evaluated on a case-by-case basis—in which the allegations against the defendant suggest s/he presents a serious risk of harm to an individual or the community as a whole and that there is no reasonable alternative to keep the community safe.

In addition, a dangerousness hearing is the only means by which other non-cash bail alternatives to detention, such as the use of GPS monitoring (ankle bracelets) can be ordered.

3. **Under what circumstances, if any, do you believe that adult sanctions should be sought against a juvenile?**

The current maximum penalty in Juvenile Court for the most serious crimes is commitment to a DYS facility until the age of emancipation (18). Adult sanctions against a juvenile should only be sought in very rare circumstances, such as where a violent crime or pattern of repeat offenses suggest the community will not be safe unless the juvenile can be incarcerated beyond the age of emancipation. In these situations, caution should be exercised to ensure young offenders are separated from older offenders and receive rehabilitative services.

4. **What steps will your office take to limit unnecessary criminal prosecution for those accused of minor non-dangerous offenses?**

Every crime will be evaluated based on its individual merits: the seriousness of the offense, the harm caused to individuals and the community, the defendant's criminal history, and any aggravating or mitigating factors contributing to the crime, such as the offender's chronological and developmental age, the harm caused, vulnerability of the victim, the motive for the offense, substance disorders and mental health concerns. Most minor, non-violent offenses will typically be diverted or dismissed upon fulfillment of conditions such as community service and/or substance evaluation and treatment to avoid the collateral consequences of convictions while still providing accountability and preventing recidivism.

5. **In many cases a minor criminal charge can have devastating immigration consequences. What will you do to work with our immigrant populations to ensure they are not exposed to additional punitive consequences? Would your office commit to considering immigration consequences as part of the prosecution decision?**

ICE's conduct across the country is not only blatantly inhumane, it violates every principle of due process I was taught in law school. I was the first candidate in this race to pledge to prosecute ICE agents when their conduct crosses the line into criminal behavior. I also support the proposed PROTECT Act currently pending before the legislature, which imposes restrictions on ICE activity in Massachusetts.

I am also very concerned about federal interference with local prosecutions, because when ICE activity deters immigrant victims from reporting crime, participating as witnesses, and appearing to answer charges in court, it makes our community unsafe, as does taking immigrant criminal defendants into custody while local prosecutions are pending.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that prosecutors should neither help nor hinder lawful ICE activities, and I will follow that instruction as District Attorney. Even before recent national events, Massachusetts prosecutors

generally do not consider a person's immigration status relevant to any prosecution decision, but now that principle is more important than ever. As District Attorney, my staff will never make decision to prosecute or decline prosecution based solely on a victim, witness, or defendant's immigration status, but I would consider declining prosecution if proceeding could result in a victim or witness's deportation; or if deportation of the defendant would cause greater harm to the victim than the crime itself. My office will never use a defendant's immigration status as a threat to gain advantage in a prosecution.

I would also support efforts to provide training to immigrant communities, in the languages they speak, about the criminal justice system and their legal rights and responsibilities.

6. **How will you take mandatory minimums into account in charging decisions? In what circumstances will your office avoid pressing charges that carry mandatory minimum sentences?**

Minimum mandatory sentences often produce unjust outcomes by preventing consideration of the unique facts of each case and because they de-prioritize other crimes. I believe that the harshest sentences should be reserved for the most serious crimes, i.e., those that involve violence or taking advantage of the vulnerable. Yet most minimum mandatory sentences in Massachusetts are attached to drug offenses, and most violent crimes do not carry minimum mandatory sentences. As DA, I will avoid seeking convictions for crimes with mandatory minimum penalties except where the offender's conduct and criminal history truly warrant it, based on the specific facts of each case. I will also regularly analyze case outcomes to track and prevent racial disparities.

Goals, Access, and Transparency

1. **In many prosecutor's offices, prosecutor performance is measured by their conviction rates. How would you go about changing a culture where the focus is on achieving justice, not just 'winning'?**

I served in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office under Scott Harshbarger and in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO) under Ralph Martin. Both men are known for their high ethical and professional standards, and their model showed me what a transparent, ethical, and accountable office looks like. As former head of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit and supervisor of the SCDAO's operations in Dorchester District Court, I have already been part of this kind of leadership.

Ensuring transparency, accountability, the highest ethical standards and resistance to political influence begins with making clear to all staff the standards I expect—through policies, training, supervision, and most importantly, by my own example and that of all managerial staff. Staff will be instructed to consider only the merits of the case in their decision-making; and I will not accept campaign contributions from staff. Staff will not be evaluated based on conviction rates, but rather, their diligence, professionalism, adherence to ethical standards, and commitment to public service. When genuine mistakes are made, supervisors will not punish, but help staff improve performance. We will also maintain a commitment to reviewing cases in which the integrity of the conviction has been called into question. Finally, I

will implement a clear policy regarding prosecution of cases in which the office may have a real or perceived conflict of interest.

2. **What efforts will you take to increase language access for immigrants beyond the right to a court interpreter? What will you do to reduce language barriers between your staff and the witnesses, victims, and others they serve or interact with?**

Every victim deserves to be heard, regardless of the language they speak. As DA, I will work to recruit staff who speak multiple languages, ensure our website and relevant documents are accessible in multiple languages, and partner with community organizations to reduce cultural and language barriers. By improving language access, we can build trust, strengthen public safety, and ensure immigrant victims and witnesses can fully participate in the justice system.

3. **Will you commit to collecting and sharing data with the public in multiple languages? (Y/N)**

YES.

4. **Do you commit to bringing in academic research partners to evaluate new and old policies and to publishing results publicly? (Y/N)**

YES.

Civil Forfeiture

1. **In what, if any, circumstances will your office seek civil forfeiture?**

Civil forfeiture is legally permitted in Massachusetts when there is probable cause to believe that assets have been used in, or purchased with, proceeds of drug sales. However, I do not believe it is appropriate to seek civil forfeiture of assets that would deprive the owner or their immediate family member of a home or the ability to care or provide (legally) for themselves or others, especially if the owner of the property is not charged with a crime. The ability to seize assets should never be a factor in deciding what crimes are investigated or prosecuted.

2. **Do you think it is appropriate for forfeited assets to be given to law enforcement? (Y/N) Why or why not?**

Yes. When the power to forfeit assets is used appropriately, the proceeds can be used to help fund substance recovery programs and other programs that prevent crime and promote public safety. District Attorneys are well-positioned to use their expertise and judgment to identify and fund effective and innovative programs.

3. **Do you agree to hold yourself to a higher standard for civil asset forfeiture than that required by law, i.e., to increase the standard of seeking forfeiture from a preponderance of evidence to beyond a reasonable doubt, and only after a conviction has occurred in the case in which the office is eligible to seek forfeiture?**

The current standard in Massachusetts requires the government only to show probable cause to believe the asset was involved in a crime, and places the burden

on the owner to prove they were innocent of crime to avoid forfeiture. I would not seek forfeiture without a preponderance of evidence that the asset was involved in a crime and that the owner was a participant in the crime. This is the burden of proof used in all civil cases. In addition, I would publish an annual report outlining what assets were received and from whom; and itemizing how they were used.

Post-Conviction

1. **Lengthy terms of probation and supervised release can impede a person's successful reentry into society. What do you consider to be the role of probation in reentry?**

Probation can be ordered as a stand-alone punishment or after a period of incarceration, and sometimes includes GPS monitoring. Probationers are generally required to successfully complete conditions applicable to their situation, such as mental health evaluations and counseling, Intimate Partner Abuse Education Programs, community service, drug testing and treatment. The restrictions of probation satisfy the goals of punishment and community safety while also enabling offenders to complete conditions that will allow them to succeed upon full re-entry. Probation officers should be a supportive resource for offenders to navigate the conditions of probation and everything needed to be successful upon re-entry while also holding offenders accountable.

2. **Prosecutors have a role in supporting or objecting to expungement petitions that otherwise meet all the eligibility criteria of the law. What standards/criteria will you use to support or oppose an otherwise eligible petition?**

If offenders otherwise meet the statutory eligibility requirements, I would not generally oppose a petition to expunge; and I would support non-time based petitions to expunge (i.e., records that resulted from cases of mistaken identity, stolen identity or offenses that are no longer a crime).

3. **What factors would you prioritize when deciding whether to support an application for parole or clemency?**

Age and mental/developmental status of offender at time of offense and sentencing; age and medical status of offender at time of application; facts underlying the crime and length of sentence; offender's acknowledgement of responsibility and harm caused; offender's voluntary participation in restorative justice programs if applicable; support of the victim or survivor of a homicide victim.

4. **What will you do to ensure that medical and elder parole is made available to qualifying incarcerated people notwithstanding the opposition of victims' families?**

The purpose of incarceration is to keep dangerous offenders away from society, to punish, to deter future crime, and to rehabilitate. I will always prioritize the opinion of victims' families in making any decision whether or not to support an application for parole. That said, if an offender is no longer dangerous, no longer likely to commit crime, and unlikely to be further rehabilitated due to age or medical status, I would strongly consider supporting an application for parole.

5. **Do you commit to creating a conviction and/or sentencing integrity unit to review past cases for misconduct, mistake, and consonance with justice? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. In [*Commonwealth v. Mattis*](#), the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole are unconstitutional for "emerging adults" who were aged 18, 19, or 20 at the time of their offense. The decision is retroactive, giving hundreds of convicted individuals the opportunity for a parole hearing. What are your thoughts on the *Mattis* decision, and what would be your approach if one involving your office went before the Parole Board?

I support the Mattis decision. As a mother and as someone who has worked closely with young adults for my entire career, I am well aware that chronological age can outpace developmental age. If a Norfolk County case that fell within the Mattis criteria came before the Parole Board, I would make a determination about whether to support the petition based on the specific circumstances of the crime, the wishes of the victim, the offender's acknowledgement of the crime and harm caused, signs of remorse, rehabilitation efforts, and length of time served.

Police/Government Actor Misconduct

1. **Do you commit to creating a Do Not Call List to keep track of police officers that commit misconduct, and that your office will no longer call to testify at trial or allow to initiate cases, write sworn police reports, testify at pre-trial hearings, etc.?**

Yes. As an example, the recently publicized racist, sexist, homophobic and anti-semitic messages exchanged between disgraced Trooper Michael Proctor and Canton Police Officer Sean Goode reflect a deep hatred of countless residents in our community that underscores the decision that they cannot fulfill their duties to be professional and impartial in their investigations.

My top priority is restoring the community's trust in the District Attorney's Office. Critical to restoring that trust is ensuring that all evidence and court testimony is obtained using professional, trauma-informed investigation techniques that empower victims and homicide survivors; and complying with due process. District Attorneys nationwide are required to keep "Do Not Call" lists known as "Brady lists" after a landmark Supreme Court case, *Brady v. Maryland*, which requires prosecutors to share exculpatory evidence with defendants. I will keep a Brady list.

2. **Are there any other sanctions that you will commit to to attempt to prevent police officers from committing misconduct?**

Police misconduct has no place in the criminal justice system, and I will not tolerate it as District Attorney. First, I will request reassignment of every trooper in the District Attorney's investigative unit who worked under Sgt. Yuri Bukhenik. I will also require all staff to report suspected police or other government misconduct to a designated executive staff member. Officers suspected of misconduct will be reported to their supervisor, the POST Commission, and included on a Do Not Call list. If the conduct is criminal, they will be prosecuted by our office or referred to another prosecuting agency as appropriate. If the conduct occurs during the course of a pending criminal case, we will disclose it to defense counsel. I would also support and collaborate on trainings for police to prevent inadvertent misconduct.

3. **When it is determined that certain law enforcement officers have committed serious misconduct or criminal activity in past or present cases, do you commit to reviewing all cases previously or subsequently handled by those officers? What do you plan to do with the cases you identify, if anything? Would you initiate a sentinel event review?**

Yes. Police misconduct undermines the credibility of convictions, so any significant instance of police misconduct, such as the Annie Dookhan drug lab scandal or the texts of disgraced former Trooper Michael Proctor and Officer Sean Goode, must trigger a review of all impacted cases to determine whether the misconduct influenced the outcome of the case. If it did, my office will reopen the case to dismiss it or re-sentence as appropriate. I would also seek to identify whether our office knew or should have known of the misconduct sooner, how we can prevent similar misconduct in the future, and I would publish a report outlining the results of the review.

4. **Will your office commit to using independent prosecutors to investigate cases of alleged police misconduct and brutality?**

I will implement a written conflict of interest policy that governs when cases will be referred outside our office for prosecution. Even if there is no genuine conflict of interest, if prosecuting any case would cause the appearance of impropriety, I would refer it to another prosecutor. To ensure professionalism and consistency, I would typically refer the case to the District Attorney of another county or the Attorney General rather than a private attorney, which would also save costs.

Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care

1. **Will you oppose any effort to criminalize, penalize, intimidate, or surveil people who seek, provide, or assist in accessing reproductive health care, including the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes? (Y/N)**

YES.

2. **Will you support protecting patients, providers, and all those involved in facilitating access to reproductive health care services from out-of-state investigations, prosecutions, or civil actions related to legally-protected reproductive and gender-affirming health care service and commit to enforcing Massachusetts shield laws by declining to investigate or prosecute out-of-state subpoenas and arrest warrants related to legally-protected health care activity? (Y/N)**

YES.

White-Collar Crime

1. **Since the 1990s, prosecution of white-collar crime has [declined dramatically](#). How would you describe your approach to prosecuting financial crimes and other**

white-collar crimes? What principles, experiences, and priorities would you bring to this work?

Financial crimes have increased sharply in recent years due to advances in technology that make it easier than ever to scam others. And it's not just the theft of our money or identity that causes harm-the barrage of texts and phone calls we all get from scammers make us distrust every stranger, even our neighbors.

Among those most vulnerable to financial crimes are seniors. According to the FBI, there were 3,224 reported victims of elder fraud in Massachusetts in 2024, with total reported losses of approximately \$99.8 million.

As someone who has been the primary caregiver of an elderly disabled parent, I know firsthand how vulnerable seniors can be, and how devastating financial crimes are to those with fixed incomes.

Yet prosecuting financial crimes is expensive and complex, not only because untangling schemes and identifying offenders is challenging and time-consuming, but also because of jurisdictional issues. Many white collar crimes cross county, state and even international lines, but local district attorneys can only prosecute crime that takes place within their own districts. And if an offender is outside Massachusetts, prosecution is even more difficult.

As a society, we must make addressing white collar crime a priority, and as District Attorney, I will do all I can to address the scourge of financial crime in our world, by:

- Investing resources in forensic financial and technology experts to help prosecute financial crime in Norfolk County and collaborate with other agencies
- Collaborating with other local, federal and international law enforcement to identify and prosecute scammers
- Adding a portal to the District Attorney's website where residents can report scams, sign up for notifications about current scams, and learn about common scams
- Investing in high-quality, interactive trainings for community members to protect against scams

Legislation & Advocacy

1. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?
 - a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? (Y/N) **NO, but I agree with the modifications to minimum mandatory sentences made by the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act.**
 - b. [Raising the age](#) of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? (Y/N) **YES.**

- c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? Massachusetts is one of only three states that criminalizes consensual sexual activity between two adolescents. (Y/N) **YES.**
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? (Y/N) **NO. In Massachusetts, first-degree murder is the only crime that carries a mandatory penalty of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Thus, everyone convicted of first-degree murder receives the same sentence, which is appropriate for murder.**
 - e. Restructuring joint venture sentencing such that accomplices to murder are sentenced proportionally to their level of responsibility for a death rather than a minimum sentence of life without parole? (Y/N) **YES.**
2. The 2020 police accountability law passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?
 - a. Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court? (Y/N) **NO. Like the work of any professional, policing involves a high degree of discretion and decision-making in complex, high-stress situations. Sometimes even the most qualified, well-trained and well-intentioned professionals make mistakes. Qualified immunity provides legal protection in those instances, but not for officers who engage in intentional misconduct. Eliminating qualified immunity would discourage good people from choosing law enforcement as a career.**
 - b. Enacting the recommendations from the special legislative commission on facial recognition, to implement privacy, civil rights, and due process protections to govern police use of the technology? (Y/N)
3. **Solitary Confinement.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education and vocational training for all incarcerated people? (Y/N) **YES.**
4. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? (Y/N) **YES.**
5. **DOC Oversight.** Would you support legislation to establish an inspector general for the Department of Correction? (Y/N) **YES.**
6. **Keeping Families Connected.** Would you support eliminating the arbitrary, unnecessary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons and jails? (Y/N) **YES.**
7. **Clean Slate.** The Massachusetts court system maintains a database of name-based court arraignment records, referred to as Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). Many people are trapped in poverty and shut out of jobs and housing because of the difficult process to expunge their records, even for cases that did not end in a conviction or occurred when they were teenagers. Would you support...

- a. Requiring the Commissioner of Probation to automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods without requiring individuals to file a petition to do so? (Y/N) **YES—for those charges to which sealing applies.**
 - b. Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction? (Y/N) **YES.**
8. **Reentry.** The Department of Correction's stated mission is to "prepare [individuals in custody] for safe and successful reentry into the community," but regularly fails to live up to that. Do you support the following measures to strengthen reentry efforts...
- a. Mandating that correctional facilities in Massachusetts assist incarcerated individuals in acquiring valid Massachusetts identification cards before their release? (Y/N) **YES.**
 - b. Increasing funding for reentry-related programming? (Y/N) **YES.**
9. **Gun Violence Prevention.** Will you vote YES to protect the 2024 gun safety bill on the ballot in November 2026? (Y/N) **YES.**