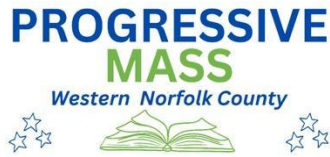


**Response from: ADAM DEITCH, Candidate for Norfolk County District Attorney**



**PMWNC Candidate Questionnaire – Norfolk County District Attorney**

1. What motivated you to run for District Attorney? Please include details such as unique qualifications you bring to the table and/or personal experiences that influenced your decision to run.

I am running for District Attorney because I believe Norfolk County deserves a DA's Office defined by fairness, competence, trust, and professionalism.

Until November 2025, I served as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston, initially handling cases ranging from bank robberies to gun and drug cases, to child exploitation and cyberstalking, to all kinds of fraud. As a member of the Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit, I focused on corruption cases throughout Massachusetts, including the prosecution of driving school instructors who were paying bribes in exchange for no-show driver's licenses and Massachusetts State Police troopers for stealing overtime pay. I also worked extensively on investigations and prosecutions here in Norfolk County – arising out of conduct relating directly to the work of the DA's Office, Norfolk County's State Police Detective Unit, and/or local police departments. Taken together, this experience – and the steady drumbeat of cases eroding public trust in the DA's Office – led me to the decision to run for DA.

On November 7, 2025, I left my job as a federal prosecutor because it's clear there's a problem in Norfolk County. Victims are not getting the justice they deserve, the public has lost faith in the system, and someone has to do something about it. It's because I have that experience – putting a microscope to entrenched institutions, including right here in Norfolk County – that makes me uniquely qualified for this job, at this moment.

2. If elected, what would be your top three priorities as DA?

As District Attorney, I will work tirelessly to restore people's faith in an office in which public confidence has eroded. To that end, we will be focused on accountability across three key categories:

1. We will hold criminals accountable and keep Norfolk County safe by building and running an office defined by fairness, competence, trust, and professionalism.
2. We will be accountable in our dealings with survivors, victims, and their family members by putting them at the center of everything we do.

3. We will hold ourselves accountable to the public through transparent and open communication, implementing principles and practices of data-driven prosecution, ensuring prosecutors and investigators adhere to the highest ethical standards, and eliminating all politics from the work of the office.
3. How would you ensure transparency, accountability, adherence to ethical standards, and resistance to political influence in the DA's office? Please consider factors such as staff recruitment/training/retention, use of technology/data, and handling cases of police misconduct or allegations of wrongful convictions.

This is such a big question! First and foremost, the people of Norfolk County deserve a District Attorney's office that they can trust. As DA, I will focus on a clear set of priorities and reforms to ensure the office remains accountable to the public it serves.

Openness and Transparency – Creating and fostering a culture of openness and transparency will be a huge priority for me as DA. To that end, we will do the following, among other things: (1) host a series of public town halls across the county in our first year, giving residents direct access to the DA's Office and an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the goals and good work of the office; (2) launch a modern, accessible website with current data, working links, and regular updates so the public can easily understand what the office is doing and why; and (3) publicizing the good work the office is doing consistently and proactively, while dramatically expanding engagement by office staff in communities across the county.

Ethics and Political Influence – We will also eliminate politics from the work of the office, full stop. I will not, now or ever, accept campaign contributions from any employee of the office. We will set clear ethical standards for the office by modeling rules for political activity (including and especially as it pertains to the DA's race) after the principles of the Hatch Act. We will establish crystal-clear rules for conflicts of interest for both prosecutors and SPDU investigators. And a senior prosecutor in the office will be charged with supervising and handling all ethics-related matters, including for prosecutors and for conflicts of interest.

Recruitment, Training, and Retention – As implied by this question, recruitment, training, and retention is one of the best ways to effect positive change over time in the DA's Office. Put simply, I will recruit and retain the best prosecutors in Massachusetts. We will overhaul the office's training program to ensure that every new ADA receives rigorous, hands-on instruction in discovery, grand jury practice, trial advocacy, ethics, trauma-informed practice, and the rules of evidence. I will – personally and actively – work to recruit the best aspiring prosecutors from area law schools (and wherever else!). We will invest in continuing professional development, including mentorship, advanced litigation training, and opportunities to learn from experienced prosecutors and trial lawyers. Fairness, excellence, professionalism, and accountability will be core values of the office, and we will make clear that these values – and not just winning – define success. And we will create clear pathways for growth and advancement such that talented prosecutors want to stay in the office. We will do everything we can to retain the best people for as long as is humanly possible.

Technology and Data – I believe that any forward-thinking DA's Office needs to creatively collect, analyze, and utilize data, both for internal and external purposes. To that end, we will incorporate data into every level of decision-making within the office by, among other things: (1) adopting and implementing a modern case

tracking and management system to guide resource allocation, improve efficiency, reduce bias, and achieve better outcomes; (2) using data to evaluate performance and refine policies; and (3) launching a public-facing dashboard with regularly-updated metrics so residents can see what the office is doing.

Cases Involving Allegations of Police Misconduct or Wrongful Convictions – As a federal prosecutor in the Public Corruption Unit and also after spending years working for and providing assistance to the Innocence Project, these issues are extremely important to me and will be significant priorities for the District Attorney’s Office under my leadership. First, I will establish an Anti-Corruption Task Force to aggressively identify and investigate police and public corruption in Norfolk County. This task force will be led by a senior prosecutor who will coordinate with local law enforcement departments and agencies across the county to field and investigate reports of misconduct. We will create a confidential reporting hotline for public employees and members of the community to report allegations of corruption and misconduct without fear of retaliation. Separately, we will launch a real Conviction Integrity Unit that proactively and independently reviews cases where serious questions have been raised. This unit will be based on nationally-recognized principles for such units, including independence, flexibility, transparency, and prevention, and will affirmatively review cases with known red flags. Members of the unit will be trained by national-level experts and ultimately work with prosecutors and staff throughout the office to implement *preventative* measures in ongoing/future investigations.

4. What steps would you take to engage with marginalized groups, who are often disproportionately affected by crime and prosecution?

In my first 100 days as District Attorney, I will visit every city and town across Norfolk County and engage with the community at large, while also conducting deliberate outreach to justice-based organizations like MIRA, MCFJJ, KFC, MACOPGV, and many others. Part of restoring trust within the community is being present and available within it. It will take time and effort to build, rebuild, or augment these bridges in our communities, but I am committed to doing whatever it takes to achieve that.

5. How would you approach cases involving individuals who suffer from substance abuse disorder, have mental health issues, or are unhoused?

First, as DA, I will treat substance use disorder, mental illness, and housing instability in a public safety-focused but treatment-oriented way – as drivers of criminal behavior that must be acknowledged and addressed (never ignored or punished reflexively). In low-level, nonviolent cases driven by addiction, mental illness, or housing instability, I will prioritize diversion, treatment, and support – over incarceration – whenever appropriate. ADAs will be trained on (and expected to understand) how trauma, addiction, and mental illness affect behavior and decision-making – especially when working with survivors who may also be struggling with these issues. That said, serious or violent offenses will be prosecuted aggressively. This approach will reduce recidivism, bolster public safety, and treat people with dignity.

In addition, I believe the DA’s Office must confront the substance use and opioid crises through a data-driven approach that emphasizes education, treatment, and long-term support (including assistance in facilitating support after release for incarcerated defendants with substance use disorder). As an office, we will track recidivism outcomes for diversion vs. incarceration, the effectiveness of treatment-oriented resolutions, and

disparities affecting unhoused individuals or people with mental health issues. Policies will be adjusted over time based on what actually improves safety and stability.

6. What is your stance on prosecuting low-level, nonviolent offenses such as drug possession?

First, I would describe my philosophy with respect to low-level, nonviolent offenses like drug possession as diversion- and treatment-oriented whenever public safety is not otherwise implicated. Every situation should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and charging decisions should be based on risk, context, data, and outcomes. I believe that regimented, reflexive charging can exacerbate underlying problems and actually undermine public safety in the long run. In low-level, nonviolent cases involving first-time offenders, diversion will be the first choice. When substance use disorder is implicated, we will focus on treatment-based resolutions and work to avoid convictions that create lifelong barriers to better outcomes.

As DA, it should go without saying that public safety will always be my number-one priority. So low-level offenses will still be prosecuted in circumstances where, for example, there is a demonstrated risk to others, a defendant repeatedly refuses treatment-based alternatives, or the conduct is linked to broader criminal activity.

7. How would you address gun violence and domestic violence in Norfolk County?

As a general matter, gun violence and domestic violence represent serious threats to public safety and will be treated as such. As DA, I will prosecute gun-related and domestic violence cases aggressively while ensuring that survivors and victims remain at the center of everything the DA's Office does.

While most communities in Norfolk County are fortunately not facing an epidemic of gun violence, as housing costs in Boston and elsewhere increase, certain gang and other violent criminal activity has already begun to trickle south. It will be critical to implement strategies to prevent, identify, investigate, and prosecute any and all instances of gun violence before short-term trends become long-term reality in places like Braintree, Quincy, Randolph, or elsewhere. To that end, and as discussed above, I believe any forward-thinking DA's Office needs to creatively collect, analyze, and utilize data – especially in areas like gun (and domestic) violence. We will therefore incorporate data into every level of decision-making within the office by, among other things: (a) adopting and installing a modern case tracking and management system; (b) using data to evaluate and improve outcomes; and (c) track crime across Norfolk County to identify trends and hotspots and measure progress over time.

The DA's Office will work with local law enforcement, probation, and community partners to identify individuals and groups at the highest risk of committing or being victims of gun violence, and we will ensure that a clear message is communicated about how perpetrators of gun and violent crime will be investigated, prosecuted, and brought to justice. Gun cases in particular depend on comprehensive, evidence-based investigations. As discussed above, as DA I will ensure the office is defined by competence, trust, and professionalism, and there are few areas where these values will be better reflected than in investigations of violent crime.

As DA, domestic violence cases will be a top office priority. In DV cases, we will utilize a survivor-centered, trauma-informed approach that supports victims while holding offenders accountable. We will use modern risk assessment tools to identify high-risk cases early, escalate supervision whenever necessary, and act swiftly when warning signs are present. ADAs will receive training on (and be expected to understand) trauma-informed practice, recognizing how fear, coercion, and trauma can affect survivor behavior. And victim witness advocates will play critical roles in ensuring that survivors receive help with, among other things, safety planning, housing, and financial concerns. To whatever end is necessary, we will strengthen and expand victim services so that every survivor, victim, and family member has access to the resources and support they need.

8. In what way(s) would you measure your success as DA?

I hold myself to incredibly high standards and will have high expectations for everyone who's part of our team in the DA's Office. By the same token, I recognize that cultural, institutional, systemic change can take time. Among other things, I'll measure success by (1) constantly being present in and communicating with members of the community, and (2) utilizing principles of data-driven prosecution to objectively measure what the DA's Office is doing – and how things are improving over time. As discussed above, our efforts to restore people's trust in the DA's Office will require dramatically increased engagement within our communities – something I will personally model as DA – and listening to members of the public will be a critical means for measuring our success in restoring people's faith in *their* DA's Office. Second, and also as discussed above, implementing principles and practices of data-driven prosecution will enable us to actually (literally) measure success. We will also regularly and proactively communicate key metrics to the public.

At the end of the day, I'll view my tenure as a success when the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office is known as the most professional prosecutor's office in the state, a place where young lawyers want to start their careers and where the best experienced prosecutors grow and stay, a place where survivors and victims feel safe and heard, and – most of all – an office where justice is never sacrificed in the name politics, in a rush to judgment, or for any other reason.

9. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your vision for the District Attorney's office?

Sure! I'm running because I have a positive vision for the future of the District Attorney's Office and because I believe I am uniquely situated and qualified to restore people's faith in an office that should be defined by fairness, competence, integrity, and professionalism. In order to run, I left my job in the U.S. Attorney's Office (because of the Hatch Act), sold my home in Boston and moved to Quincy, and am spending 100% of my time between now and this Fall having conversations with folks in Norfolk County about how we can build a District Attorney's Office we can all be proud of. If you've read this far, I very much appreciate it and hope to earn your support!