

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES ARE ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE.

WHAT DOES A DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAVE THE POWER TO DO?

WHAT PROBLEMS SHOULD DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES COMMIT TO FIX?

ASK THEM WHERE THEY STAND.

When it comes to the criminal legal system, district attorneys are one of the most powerful players. Their job is to represent the government in criminal court and prosecute people accused of offenses. Every election for district attorney is an opportunity for New Yorkers to decide who can best reduce the harms of an inequitable system.

- Decide whether to charge someone with a crime and what charges to bring
- Choose which crimes to prosecute
- Recommend whether to hold someone on bail
- Decide whether to use local resources for ICE's deportation agenda
- Influence the passage of state and local laws

LACK OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Officers are often not held responsible when they abuse New Yorkers, hide evidence, or misrepresent the truth in court.

CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY

Prosecutors too often seek charges for minor offenses and crimes of poverty. This means low-income New Yorkers and people of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal system.

THE TRIAL TAX

Prosecutors often pressure accused people into pleading guilty by threatening more serious charges if they reject a plea offer and proceed to trial.

OVERINCARCERATION

One reason for our state's high incarceration rate is the denial of parole, due in part to district attorneys' opposition to parole applications.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK THE CANDIDATES?

WILL YOUR OFFICE REFER ACCUSED PERSONS TO DIVERSION PROGRAMS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION?

These programs, like employment training or behavioral therapy, offer alternatives to incarceration.

DO YOU SUPPORT TREATING MINOR INFRACTIONS AS NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSES?

Too many people are locked up for minor offenses even though they pose no safety threat.

HOW WILL YOU REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITIES?

Research shows implicit bias results in worse plea offers and longer sentences for Black and Latino people. Tackling bias is crucial to ensuring that everyone gets treated fairly.

WILL YOU SUPPORT GRANTING PAROLE TO MORE NEW YORKERS?

District attorneys should not reflexively oppose parole applications and further New York's high incarceration rate, especially given the systemic bias in our legal system that disproportionately affects New Yorkers of color.

DO YOU SUPPORT LAWS THAT ENSURE ACCUSED PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM?

New York's discovery law was reformed in recent years to ensure no one goes to trial without fair access to the evidence against them. But some want to undo these changes and set our state back.

HOW WILL YOU ENSURE YOUR OFFICE HOLDS POLICE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ABUSES?

Whether fearing political repercussions or because of their reliance on police, too often district attorneys have declined to adequately investigate police wrongdoing.

HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THAT YOUR OFFICE PROTECTS IMMIGRANTS?

District attorneys should consider immigration status in charging decisions and sentencing recommendations, and not spend county resources fueling ICE's war on immigrants.