

**Justice For Massachusetts
2018 DA Candidate Questionnaire**

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Grass Roots Support

List grassroots leaders/Organizations that are supporting your candidacy:

NACA, Bruce Marks

Sheriff Steve Tompkins

Vincent Schiraldi

Judge Nancy Gertner

Reuben Kantor

I am seeking broad union support with the exception of police unions.

The Questionnaire is due April 27th

In 2018, it is clearer than ever that our criminal justice system is damaging the lives and life chances of individuals and communities, especially individuals and communities of color. It is doing so at the expense of real community safety and at huge expense in public resources. Big change is needed if we are to have a system that truly serves justice. We believe DA's have a central role to play in making that change happen--both in setting policies for prosecution and in advocating for laws to reform our criminal justice system.

1) What experience do you have that will prepare you to reshape the criminal justice system through the DA's office?

Fighting injustice has been my life's purpose and my exemplary performance in achieving that purpose has well prepared me to reshape the criminal justice system as DA. Every job I have held has been singularly focused on criminal justice reform and working to make an unfair system more fair for vulnerable populations. Colleagues and partners in the system describe me as laser-focused, relentless, innovative, persuasive, prepared, tough, honest, open-minded, adaptive, driven and a real reformer. And given my multidimensional, decades-long experience, I can be the connector of the two vastly different, but necessary, worlds of law and reform required to lead this transformation.

Law: I have 15 years of specific, relevant, in the trenches day in and day out legal experience. From 1998-2000, I served as a Federal Defender in San Diego where I defended mostly undocumented Mexican nationals who entered the country desperate to help their families. I saw lives destroyed by the federal prosecutorial machine and brutal mandatory minimum policies. From 1998-2000 and again from 2002-2012,¹ I proudly served as a public defender with the Committee for Public Counsel in the Suffolk County Superior Court Office. Suffolk County has 9 District Courts and one Superior Court

¹ From 2000-2002, I practiced civil litigation at a big firm in Boston. This experience does not lend itself to serving as District Attorney. It did allow me to pay off my hefty loans quickly and the day I made my last loan payment, I gave my notice and returned to the public defender 3 weeks later.

of which I have practiced extensively in all. I understand the state criminal justice system and especially how cases are charged, prosecuted, judged and monitored by probation in *this* county and in *these* courts. Through years of experience and representing thousands of clients, I understand what, when and how things go wrong as well as the pressure points that need to change. Transformation will require engaging and moving the judiciary, probation, police, DYS, clerks, court officers, defense attorneys and the community and I have vast experience in this ecosystem.

Reform: I have a proven track record of leading change at Roca - an innovative, data-driven, reform organization tasked with the mission of interrupting the cycle of incarceration and poverty by intervening in the lives of proven-risk, gang and court involved young men in Chelsea and Boston. I ran 2 sites that provided education, work skills, employment, and wrap-around support to 200+ young men. I led teams that identified these young men, forged relationships based on transparency and non-judgment, built trust, and then used that trust to push real behavior change which required changing thoughts, feelings and actions to pass through the 5 stages of change from precontemplation to sustaining change. I have a deep understanding of a complex, evidence-based behavioral change model that builds in and allows for relapse and failure because no change occurs without it. The change model I led, implemented and taught is one example of a real, viable alternative to jail for the highest-risk young men who, without intervention, will continue to commit crimes and make us all less safe. As Director, I also applied this exact model to push system partners. I identified police, prosecutors, judges, probation officers and community organizations, forged relationships, built trust and used that trust to push their behavior to ultimately help them change how they thought, felt and acted. Together we achieved more humane results steeped in compassion, science and real safety. I convened regular meetings with the heads of juvenile services, police districts, probation, and various prosecutors to explore what we each could do differently to achieve real justice and not just jailing. After my success at building the Chelsea team, I was tasked with leading the new Boston site after a devastating murder. The site was in crisis. I led it out of crisis by understanding the team's fear, setting the new values of safety and accountability, teaching the team exactly which benchmarks we needed to hit and holding everyone accountable to our values. In the 2 years under my leadership from 2015 to 2017, Roca's Boston site enjoyed the following increases in benchmarks:

- Enrollment increased by 60% from 153 to 246 participants
- Bi-weekly intentional contacts between youth workers and participants rose from 49% to 68%
- Weekly Programming: 41% of participants engaged in weekly programming up from 18% and overall programming rose from 41% to 79%; those engaging in life skills programming increased from 24% to 73%; employment programming rose from 35% to 64%; GED engagements rose from 36% to 61% and those attaining industry-recognized certification increased from 26 young men in FY15 to 65 in FY17
- Employment: Participants placed in unsubsidized employment increased from 37% (n=27) to 66% (n=88)
- Recidivism: for those engaged in the program for 24 months or longer, 79% had no new arrests for any new charges.

Lastly, I believe in driving hard conversations to enrich the culture in my workplace. Roca prides itself on being an innovative, transparent, and adaptive organization that exists to address the inequalities stemming largely from race and socio-economic disparities. But despite Roca's progressive mission, Roca Boston's diverse team nonetheless struggled with race issues, especially post-Trump. Even though the team's work was improving, I saw divisions amongst

team members based on race. In this hard work environment where the team often experienced trauma, it was imperative that we all used each team member for strength, resolve and hope which became impossible with division. I responded by implementing a series of peacemaking circles with the staff about our own race issues. Each of the 5 circles lasted anywhere from 3-4 hours and took 3 months to complete because everyone on the team had to be present for each circle. The circles began with building trust, seeking to understand each person's history and perspective, and then identifying the race-related issues facing our group. The circles would then seek actionable solutions as to how this team could acknowledge, respect and work through the issues that existed in the world and their ecosystem. Although highly emotional and exhausting, with each circle the team grew stronger, lighter and more generous with each other every day. My commitment to addressing race relations and carving out time from traditional work to empower the team reflects my purpose to make all systems fairer and better for everyone.

2) What do you think about the growing prison population? What role with your DA's office take in reducing it?

The growing² prison population is inexcusable and a direct result of poverty, racism, the war on drugs, addiction, unaddressed mental health issues and our inability to effectively understand and address the factors that cause violent crimes. This systemic injustice has been exacerbated by the scorecard culture prevalent in prosecutor offices and that culture must change from winning to real justice for all. In addition to massive culture change, reduction will require: 1) an end to mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes; 2) using discretion and data to guide charging decisions, ensuring the right people are being charged for the right reasons; 3) an end to overcharging to impose fear and extract pleas; 4) an end to cash bail for misdemeanors and other crimes that result in destructive consequences which bring the poor to the breaking point while also unfairly encouraging pleas fourfold; 5) seeing, hearing, respecting and serving all victims and seeking to make them as whole as possible which can should include the restorative justice process; 6) an increase in smart, strategic diversion from traditional incarceration to data-driven programs and other alternatives that track the change process with evidence, benchmarks and outcomes; 7) ensuring sentences are commensurate with the crime – longer sentences have no correlation to reducing recidivism; 8) requiring District Attorneys to monetize their recommended jail/prison sentences and explain to the court why the Commonwealth should spend \$55,000 per year on imprisonment and explain how that will make us safer; 9) an approach that sees defendants as individuals worthy of a menu of possible responses to their cases and choosing the response with the best odds of reducing recidivism; 10) when recommending probation, suggest one year and if longer, an option to terminate at one year for a solid performance; 10) require all assistant district attorneys to visit a prison and talk with those held about what led them to that sentence; 11) require meaningful implicit bias training; 12) engage a college or think tank to comprehensively study this office's past and future practices to reveal and correct the systemic racism and prevalent injustice; 13) engage the community in providing solutions, such as community conferences where willing victims and

² While the last known data from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department dates back to FY15, the country has seen a decreasing prison population in the last 2 years. In Suffolk County, however, we have experienced a steady increase in the incarceration of emerging adults (18-24) accounting for 10% of population, 29% of arrests, 23% of admissions into the jail/House of Correction and 20% of Department of Correction (state prison) commitments. Their recidivism rate is also the highest of any group: 76% released from the House of Correction will be re-arraigned within 3 years.

perpetrators find solutions that work for them and holding defendants accountable to those agreements.

3) What are your thoughts on the War on Drugs?

It is a failed policy wasting billions of dollars better spent on the root causes of criminal conduct such as addiction, mental illness and equality in education. All evidence shows mandatory minimum sentences do not deter crime but rather, cost immense human and community damage. I also believe placing false hope in mandatory minimum sentences takes us away from innovative, strategic solutions we must explore to tackle this opioid and drug crisis.

4) Do you believe there is under-representation of women or people of color working in the court system? If so, how would you work to correct the problem?

Yes, underrepresentation exists for both women and people of color but correcting the problem requires somewhat different approaches.

Women are certainly present as prosecutors in Suffolk County; however, they are neither promoted at the rate of, or to the higher positions of their male counterparts. Parity in promotion would first require parity in mentorship, training and real investment in building their skills to set them up for success.

People of color: At Roca, I built a management team with 75% people of color and frontline staff comprised of 60% people of color. At a minimum, the DA's office should reflect the diversity of Suffolk County at 40% people of color. I will achieve that baseline by not only hiring people of color but by also truly re-examining what we think makes a "good prosecutor," filtering out the deep structural racism that informs that idea. This DA's office also has an incredibly high turnover of lawyers of color. We must invest, train, mentor, challenge and promote people of color so that they stay, grow and become the mentors to a new generation.

We also have a fundamental inspiration problem and will need to partner with communities, colleges and law schools to inspire more people of color to become prosecutors. We do this first by changing the culture of the office from a scorecard mentality to prosecuting smartly and with a deeper understanding of how those inequalities affect traditional prosecution. In addition, the DA's office must reach into the community to educate all about the true power of the prosecutor above and beyond the traditional "lock them up and throw away the key" mentality. This will motivate a newer and more diverse generation of people to attend law school. Lastly, treating victims, witnesses and defendants with fairness and respect will attract those living in the communities most affected to be closer to the solution.

5) Do you believe that all citizens have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can be done to provide wider and better access?

No. Adequate access to legal help and the system has always been dictated by the color of your skin, your income, your zip code, education and who you know. My husband represented affluent, influential people and when someone was under investigation or may be called as a witness, he contacted any one of many private lawyers to advise them. Poor people have the opposite experience with no access to free legal advice and no access to those in "the know" who can help them navigate the complex system. For witnesses, I would start with offering grand jury witnesses counsel to discuss their rights and obligations as opposed to the current practice of summoning them under threat of arrest and then using power dynamics and scare tactics in pre-meetings to force testimony. With regard to victims, families of murder and shooting victims regularly

complain that no one contacts them to explain how their loved one was hurt or killed, the process going forward or the services to which they are entitled such as addressing safety issues and trauma suffered. The DA's office should ensure all such victims are contacted immediately and treated respectfully and compassionately. It is the DA's duty to offer up people and resources that can make the unknown known to victims and others in the system.

6) What efforts will you take to increase language access for immigrants that's beyond the right to a court interpreter?

I will employ Victim-Witness Advocates who speak multiple languages when possible and whenever necessary, use an interpreter when meeting with victims and witnesses who speak another language. Just as defense attorneys apply for funds from the court to hire interpreters for out-of-court conversations, ADAs and their staff will do so when necessary. Lastly, all information pamphlets will be translated to the languages needed.

7) What will you do to ensure that the community stays up to date on the changes you have made as District Attorney? How do you propose that the community should hold you accountable for the commitments you make during your campaign?

I will publish a quarterly newsletter identifying our stated outcomes, benchmarks, and our progress on each. I will issue memorandums when new policies and procedures are announced. I will publish data obtained and be transparent about what the data reveals about past and current practices. I welcome accountability – I require it from the teams I lead and hold myself accountable first and foremost by example.

Alternatives to incarceration:

1) What specific types of programs (please give examples of programs in other jurisdictions) will you implement or expand to deal with issues of mental illness?

Specialty courts are the name of the game with mental illness and I will advocate expanding the use of such courts. The giant caveat is that the prosecutors in those courts must be vetted, educated, trained and supervised unless and until they show the bandwidth to understand the nuanced and informed response needed to address the challenges of mental illness. And referral services and pretrial diversion will only be as good and effective as those services to which they are referred. This is about leveraging both state funds traditionally used for jailing those with mental illness and using the strong programs already in existence in the County such as VinFen (a community-based, holistic approach to provide comprehensive services including recovery, supporting living, habilitation, education, employment and clinical and peer support), Healthcare for the Homeless and certified social workers, clinicians and therapists.

2) How do you plan to handle issues that arise with children in school ending up in court?

I believe schools should have the ability to handle most of the issues arising in them. I have seen many cases where going to the principal's office would have been the more appropriate remedy, not court. Of course, issues with children in school span the spectrum from senselessly criminalizing expected childhood behavior (countless of my past clients have convictions for "disturbing a school assembly" for example) to effectively addressing behavior that seriously threatens safety for all students (bringing a gun into a school). Discretion must be used in our responses. For low risk children and incidents, schools should speak to parents and guardians, as has always been the case. However, time, resources and engagement must be commensurate with the seriousness of the threat and the risk level of

the child. The menu of options shall include: no intervention, writing essays, working to right the wrong/pay the restitution if possible, partaking in classes that strengthen emotional regulation while increasing the identification of values and goals (like BAM or CBT), non-punitive community courts, and one of my favorite restorative justice practices of community conferences which allow the child and those affected to see the other's pain and challenges. I believe Boston Public Schools are seriously dedicated to ending the school to prison pipeline and are working hard to implement alternatives to court intervention and I will support that effort.

- 3) **Will you commit to establishing and fully funding a pre-arraignment diversion program that allows people arrested for petty offenses, including low-level drug possession or sale, to get the help and support they need without needlessly exposing them to the consequences of a criminal conviction?** Yes.

If not what specific steps will you take to create avenues for defendants to be diverted away from criminal prosecution?

- 4) **Will you commit to expanding pre-trial services? Which services will you commit to expanding or developing?**

I will expand the formal juvenile diversion program as the current one-year-old program engaged a mere 45 juveniles with 12 graduates in one court. The need to divert and strengthen our youth requires a more urgent response which means covering all juvenile courts, increasing the number of participants, and ensuring the programs partnered with deliver accurate, meaningful data. We need to know which programs deliver the best results, improve those that need help and weed out those with no real results.

As for the other specialty courts (mental health, veterans, homeless, drug), I will closely monitor these programs and seek to improve prosecutorial participation.

- 5) **What percentage of your budget will you commit to establishing and supporting community vetted alternatives to incarceration?**

Since there is no published working budget for the Suffolk Co. DA's office, percentages are hard to nail down. However, smart prosecution would save money by taking from the ineffective uses of the budget (prosecuting insignificant and weak cases, massive delays caused by late and surprise discovery the eve before trial, requesting continuances often, preparation and trial expenses for those cases diverted, etc.) and using the funds saved for community vetted alternatives.

It would make good sense to explore a performance contract or social impact bond whereby funds from the state that would otherwise go to the jails and prisons would divert to programs with proven track records to reduce recidivism. In sum, while an effective percentage would be dedicated to community-based alternatives to jail, Suffolk County is resource rich and diverting people to alternative programs need not only be about using the DA's budget but using the programs already in existence. In addition, I am trained in "community conferencing" which uses all those involved in a conflict to meet (if all agree) and resolve their own conflict. This is incredibly successful, requires a trained outside facilitator to prepare and execute the case and is very low cost.

- 6) **Will you commit to diverting or dismissing all simple possession drug cases?**

Yes, with treatment requirements when the facts so require.

Charging/Pre-Trial:

1) **Will you commit to not requesting cash bail in all misdemeanor and low-level felony cases?** Yes.

2) **More and more youth are being held in adult jails before they even reach trial. As DA, what would you do to keep children out of the system?**

Emerging adults are a rising and troublesome population being jailed in Suffolk County. From 2013 to 2015, the Sheriff's Department jailed approximately 1,600 people every day but processed 22,000 admissions over those two years. Of those admissions, 23% constituted emerging adults, 84% were people of color and 86% were being held pretrial. Ending cash bail for misdemeanors, nonviolent felonies and cases where we will not consider jail as an appropriate disposition will reduce the imprisonment of these young adults. Increasing pretrial services such as texting for court dates and weekly check-ins can also reduce those held. And using programs already in existence as a condition of bail when appropriate – such as College Bound, Youth Build, JRI, Teen Empowerment, and Roca – will get this cohort the services they need to have a chance to lift themselves up and out of the system.

3) **Tens of thousands of people are under correctional control for minor non-dangerous misdemeanor offenses. What will your office do to limit unnecessary criminal prosecution for those accused of minor non-dangerous offenses? Will your office commit to reducing the number of misdemeanors charged in cases where there is no threat to public safety?**

I will use pretrial diversion to limit unnecessary criminal prosecution for those accused of minor non-dangerous offenses. The nature of the crime, the restitution owed and the specific challenges of the defendant will dictate the nature and circumstances of the diversion. If a victim is owed restitution, the process must include the defendant working to pay that restitution. I will commit to reducing the number of misdemeanors charged in cases where there is no threat to public safety.

4) **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 exposed to additional punitive consequences? Would your office commit to considering immigration consequences for defendants as part of determining what to charge? Additionally, would you institute guidance and education for your prosecutors to avoid extreme immigration penalties (i.e. deportation)?**

My office will take immigration consequences into account when determining what to charge and in offering dispositions. When a disposition will trigger immigration consequences, the line ADA must meet with her supervisor to explain why an alternative disposition is not appropriate before proceeding. In addition, prosecutors will be trained in the devastating immigration consequences that can flow from any disposition, even seemingly minor ones. Crimes of moral turpitude and aggravated felonies (selling a small amount of drugs) can trigger deportation and permanently bar one from ever presiding in or returning to the US. We obtain real justice when prosecutors appreciate all consequences for all people. Notably, these cases present an opportunity where a defendant will be highly motivated to do the right thing, comply with probation, obtain a job, and address the root cause of their criminality. Prosecutors must recognize and use this moment to get defendants to the services and programs they need to lift up and out of the system when possible.

5) Will your office create and share clear policies that detail when and why you will use sentencing enhancements?

Prosecutors regularly use sentencing enhancements to muscle defendants into unfair, unjust and excessive plea agreements. This practice will end. I will teach prosecutors that using prior convictions that occurred in large part because of poverty and inequities fuel mass incarceration and will no longer be used to enhance sentences. For example, a gun possession charge can be enhanced with one, two or three prior crimes of violence, which include Assault and Battery on a Police Officer (ABPO). Many arrests – and even some that do not pan out for the charge allegedly arrested for– that involved a touch or a push away result in ABPO in marginalized communities with defendants of color. And many plead guilty to this charge because it is easier than staying in jail on bail. I would not use those priors that only involved a touching of an officer to enhance an 18-month possible sentence to a three, five or 15-year mandatory sentence. We also must consider the length of time between the current charge and the triggering prior conviction– using stale convictions that occurred in one’s youth defeats the purpose of enhancements. Sentencing enhancements will be reserved for repeat, dangerous offenders not those who have not been in trouble for years.

6) Will your office commit to using independent prosecutors to investigate cases of alleged police brutality? Yes.

7) Are there mandatory minimums you will commit to stop using to pressure people into pleading guilty? If not, why not? If so, which?

The Crime Bill has eradicated many of the troublesome mandatory minimums that have fueled mass incarceration. However, the Bill expanded the mandatory minimum for Class A narcotics (heroin, fentanyl, etc.). The War on Drugs is a failed policy, wasting billions of dollars and failing to deter crime or drug use. If used, this law will be reserved for the most serious repeat offenders and as a last resort.

8) What efforts will you take to identify cases where individual uses the criminal system for retaliatory purposes?

I have seen cases where serious allegations (often involving domestic or child abuse) have been lodged amidst sticky divorces, child custody battles and tumultuous breakups. When I would approach prosecutors with my concerns about the validity of the allegations, I would hear more often than not “That’s a trial issue.” The National Prosecutorial Standards direct otherwise. “In the event that the prosecutor learns of previously unknown information that could affect a screening decision previously made, the prosecutor should reevaluate that earlier decision in light of the new information.” As DA, when alerted to the possibility that the system may have been used for retaliatory purposes, I will require a new review of the case by a supervisor, as well as additional investigation and interviews to determine if the case is strong enough to proceed to trial. A prosecutor must always listen, evaluate and act upon *all* evidence not just the inculpatory evidence.

Administrative:

1) In many prosecutors’ offices, prosecutor performance is measured by their conviction rates. Would you commit to using alternative metrics you would use to measure prosecutorial performance? If so, which?

For serious crimes of rape, child abuse, violent attacks and murder, the metric will be convictions obtained. In all other cases, prosecutors will be measured by the dual metric of reducing crime and reducing mass incarceration. While I understand convictions and jail are an easier metric, we are an advanced and evolved people with the capabilities to dig in and measure the metrics that will get us to real justice.

Also, prosecutors will be trained on “desistance” which takes into account a defendant’s progress even when that progress includes another crime. The natural inclination is to severely punish one who gets into trouble again but in reality, if that crime or violation is less severe or occurring with less frequency, the prosecutor will take that into account when deciding how to proceed. Safety requires keeping people who are actually improving on that trajectory while also holding them accountable.

2) Will you commit to collecting and sharing data with the public? Would your office commit to collecting demographic data (e.g., race, gender and sexual orientation) about who is charged, what they are charged with, what plea is offered and what bail is recommended?

Yes. And while I will collect demographic data (e.g., race, gender and sexual orientation) about who is charged, what they are charged with, what plea is offered and what bail is charged, I will also collect the same data as to all prosecutors making those same decisions. Prosecutors do not want to make systemically racist decisions but they do. When they see data proving that reality, I believe they will be horrified and want to learn how we ensure such inequality no longer invades our courtrooms.

Please note the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office has *never* collected data of any kind, citing an outdated computer system and a stingy legislature. I find both excuses wholly unacceptable. I will contact any number of colleges (MIT is right down the street) or think tanks like Vera (after the election but before I take office) to have in place on day one a sophisticated data collection system.

Data can be daunting to many but I have used data to achieve the outcomes of reduced recidivism and increased employment for years. At Roca, we used ETO - Efforts to Outcome - to measure every youth worker’s contact with young men and court partners capturing the type (in-person, phone, text), duration, quality, length, level of engagement, stage of change, who initiated the contact and content of communication; participant attendance in class, work, or training (class, duration, level of engagement, location whether on site or off site in the community); number of participants engaged in what form of activity daily (20 completed CBT; 15 worked, 20 in GED, etc.); number of participants who obtained employment; and all details related to any participant’s arrest. I used data every day to manage, evaluate and motivate my team (every youth worker had standards they must meet daily, weekly, monthly) as well as used compliance figures monthly to analyze which benchmarks had been met and which had not to determine the next month’s priorities. As a Director, I was also measured and held accountable to my standards and required benchmarks monthly. Also, every employee had access to all reports to see who achieved their goals and who did not daily, weekly and monthly. I directed a transparent organization where every single staff person and manager was held highly accountable, including myself. You cannot improve that which you cannot measure and I believe in measuring everything; the work is simply too vital to rely on best intentions.

- 3) Will you commit to making the raw data (above) available to the public (of course this would exclude personally identifying information)? Yes.
- 4) Would your office commit to an open file policy that provides defendants with information about their prosecution as early as possible? Yes.

Wage Theft:

- 1) **Wage theft is often left to attorney generals or civil lawsuit to be dealt with instead of being prosecuted as theft. Will you commit to use your office to prosecute employers who are stealing wages?**

Yes, within the confines of the statutes and present case law though I believe in test cases to expand existing case law. Two statutes could be considered and tested: larceny by embezzlement (G.L. 266, s.30) and receiving stolen property (G.L. 266, 60). In addition, employers engaged in wage theft often retaliate against employees who complain by falsely accusing the employee of theft and taking out charges. Such an abuse of the system and illegal retaliation will be prosecuted under filing a false police report (GL 268, s.13A) and intimidating a witness, which is an indictable offense (G.L. 268, s.13B).

Civil Forfeiture:

- 1) **In what circumstances will your office move for civil forfeiture?** After conviction.

Post-Conviction:

- 1) **What steps will you take to reduce re-incarceration for people who pose no public danger but have violated their supervision?**

Depending on the violation, I would not re-incarcerate a probationer who has violated their supervision who pose no public danger. People fail. People make mistakes. Throwing the book at someone so hard that they never get up does not make us safer. We need to use such moments to hold people accountable, teach, address the mistake and increase relevant learning and resilience to decrease the odds of that mistake being repeated. Probation exists to facilitate learning and the change process. If we thought the probationer could do it on his or her own then we would not have recommended probation.

Lobbying:

- 1) **How will you use your public and political influence to reduce mass incarceration and racial disparity in the criminal justice system?**

I will advocate and testify in support of legislation like the New Crime Bill. I will also advocate to raise the age of juveniles and encourage a court dedicated to young adults. In addition, Suffolk County can and should be the premiere office in all of New England leading criminal justice reform, reducing recidivism and increasing our safety. Just as I am inspired by the changes in Philadelphia, others will look to Suffolk County for their inspiration.

- 2) **Will you support the following State legislative proposals:**

- **Ending cash bail?** Yes.
- **Increasing the age at which an offender is charged in juvenile court?** Yes
- **Repealing mandatory minimums?** Yes.

3) Key to the integrity of our criminal defense system is the right of defendants to meaningful representation throughout the criminal justice process. There have been huge cuts in the budget of public defenders that have made it hard for them to do their job. Will you advocate for fully funded public defense at the local and state level?

Yes. It is universally recognized that both public defenders and prosecutors are woefully underpaid and I will advocate strongly for better pay. That said, we all knew the pay when we signed up and that can never be used as an excuse to not “do your job” or do it with integrity, dedication and accountability.