



## **Candidate Survey for L.A. County Board of Supervisors, District 3 Responses for Candidate: Craig Brill**

**About this survey:** The ACLU of Southern California invited candidates for L.A. County Board of Supervisors, District 3, to participate in a survey about their positions on some of the most pressing issues facing LA. This document is the full response of one candidate: Craig Brill.

For the full survey results, go to <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/la-bos-d3-candidate-survey> to see each candidate's unedited responses to the policy questions and unedited candidate statement on why they will be a champion on ACLU issues.

Our candidate questionnaire does not endorse any candidate. ACLU SoCal is a nonprofit that does not endorse or oppose any candidates for elected public office.

---

**Question 1:** Students incarcerated in the LA County juvenile facilities are subjected to deplorable living conditions and are receiving a poor-quality education. In the past year alone, the Board of Supervisor's Probation Oversight Commission issued a scathing report about the lack of meaningful education in the facilities and the California Attorney General entered into a settlement requiring reforms. If elected, will you commit to prioritizing fundamentally reforming the education system in the juvenile facilities run by LA County Office of Education and LA County Probation?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

I too believe our Board of Supervisors have failed to provide the necessary oversight and proper funding of our juvenile facilities, this is not a new phenomenon, this has been decades in the making. We must create first class education and rehabilitation programs, not just academic but trade skills as well, so that upon release the juvenile has marketable skills if college is not their path. We must also have caseworkers that follow them upon release for a period of time, to help guide them so they don't end up in jail again. We must also separate the non violent offenders from the violent criminals.

**Question 2:** The legal right to abortion care is being attacked across the country, resulting in an increased strain on California abortion funds, which already serve many Californians facing significant barriers to abortion care access here at home. If elected, will you commit to providing significant funding to local abortion funds to help ensure people seeking abortion care, regardless of their background or economic status, can access abortion care services?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

None provided.

**Question 3:** The Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services is the nation's largest public child welfare agency. While Black children make up only 7.5% of Los Angeles County's population, they make up 27.8% of young people in DCFS's custody. Data shows that over 58% of Black children in Los Angeles will be subject to a DCFS investigation before they are 18. The Reimagine Child Safety Coalition has put forth 11 demands to protect families immediately in Los Angeles. In light of the [Reimagine Child Safety Coalition's demands](#) to address the racialized harms of the existing "child welfare" system, will you take action to stop the targeting of Black families, shrink the system, and shift resources toward alternatives that truly support families? If so, how?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

I Agree we need structural reform at DCFS, we need more and better trained social workers, and we must offer resources for parents to do better. As a child survivor growing up in a home with domestic violence, praying every day my mother would leave her abuser or someone would take us out of the situation. Domestic Violence is no place for a child. The trauma it causes, the potential to become an abuser themselves if far greater. I agree with some of the reforms and would be happy to have those conversations, but I will not jeopardize the safety of children because justice demands that we protect and care for them. They are the voiceless.

**Question 4:** The LA County Jail system is at a crisis point. In 2021, 55 individuals died while incarcerated in LA County Jails. It was the deadliest year on record since the CA Department of Justice began tracking LA County Jail deaths in 2005. Decarceration and the closure of Men's Central Jail (MCJ) are steps that must be taken now to save lives. In March 2021, the MCJ closure workgroup presented a plan to close MCJ in 18-24 months. A core component of that plan is the funding and creation of new beds necessary to treat thousands of people with mental illness currently in the jails in the community instead. Yet, the Board failed to adopt the workgroup's plan or timeline. If elected, will you commit to establishing a firm timeline and funding for the creation of the 4,000 new community care beds necessary to close MCJ by March 2023?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

Reform is needed in how our Deputies treat inmates for sure, we need better trained officers. I also agree the Mentally Ill should not be incarcerated with the general population and that violent criminals should not be housed with low level offenders. But thte BOS scrapped the replacement plan for MCJ after wasting \$80 million on it. Until we have an alternative in place and ready to go I can not in good conscience support the timeline currently in place. Until we have the replacement we must step up and reform how MCJ currently operates

**Question 5:** Over the past several years, the California Legislature has addressed concern about policing and police violence in part by increasing public access to records of investigations into and discipline of peace officers for serious uses of force and misconduct including sexual assault, dishonesty, unlawful searches or arrests, and bias. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, however, in response to requests for records by journalists, community members, and family members of people killed by LASD who are looking for answers, has repeatedly failed to respond or to make records public as required by law. The Department's refusal to follow the law has been so bold that the current Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance placing the authority for responding to public records with County Counsel. But the new ordinance remains contingent on funding for County Counsel to perform those duties and continues to require the Sheriff's Department's cooperation in searching its records.

If elected, would you support (a) sufficient funding to County Counsel, and (b) strong requirements for Sheriff's Department cooperation, to ensure timely production of public records from the Sheriff's Department in response to requests for information about deputy misconduct, use of force, and Sheriff's Department operations?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

sunshine is the best disinfectant

**Question 6:** County entities charged with overseeing the Sheriff's Department over the past several years have run into serious obstacles, including a Sheriff who has cut off oversight entities' access to records they need to perform their job, has initiated criminal investigation into watchdog agencies that County's own counsel has charged are politically motivated, has refused to appear before oversight bodies and has accused those who raise concerns about misconduct. More than [seventy organizations signed a letter](#) to the Board of Supervisors calling for it to place a charter amendment on the ballot that would strengthen oversight, including by authorizing a four-fifths supermajority of the Board to impeach and remove the sheriff for serious violations of the public trust and abuse of power, reinforcing the Board's authority to create policies for the Department and delegate policy-making authority to the Civilian Oversight Commission, and incorporating the Office of Inspector General and Civilian Oversight Commission into the County Charter. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of Berkeley School of Law and Miriam Krinsky, a former federal prosecutor and executive director of the L.A. County Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence, recently [called for such a charter amendment in an op-ed](#) in the L.A. Times.

If elected, would you vote to place such a charter amendment on the ballot for L.A. County voters?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

while I do support more oversight, I think we need a better oversight committee that is not just political appointees, I also do not think 5 supervisors should have impeachment power over a duly elected official. If they have broken the laws, they should be removed by prosecution, and if they violated the public trust the public can recall, I do not trust 5 partisan politicians with impeachment power, perhaps if the BOS was expanded I could support such an approach. The Citizens Elect our Sheriff, The BOS must find better ways to work with and support the dept regardless if they like the current sheriff. The current fighting is putting public safety at risk.

**Question 7:** The Board of Supervisors has the duty under state law to supervise its sheriffs in order to “ensure that they faithfully perform their duties.” Penal Code § 25303. Los Angeles County ordinances recognize that this responsibility includes the authority to direct and supervise the formulation and implementation of policy for LASD. L.A. Cnty. Code § 2.06.130. However, in practice, the Board of Supervisors has not exercised this authority, and has let the Sheriff exercise nearly unfettered policy authority over LASD, even when its policies and practices conflict with federal or state law.

If elected Supervisor, would you assert full authority given to you under state law and County ordinance to ensure lawful operation of the Sheriff’s Department and ensure compliance with all state laws?

**Candidate Answer:**

YES  NO

**Candidate Explanation:**

like in so many other areas of governance the BOS has shirked the responsibilities, if state and federal laws are not being met, the BOS should have the Sheriff and any of his deputies violating laws arrested and prosecuted. All laws must be faithfully executed without favor or prejudice

**Candidate Statement:**

There is no greater job of an elected official to ensure our laws are applied justly and without favor. If our laws are creating unjust outcomes, they must be changed, if any such laws exist at the county level I will move to abolish them. The same with all funding, every community deserves the same level of funding and services and I will fight for this every day. I am 56 yo I have been hearing about the injustices and racist policies in our govt since I was a kid. That these injustices are still with us, is a moral failing not of our citizens but of our career politicians elected to change this. I will fight for All Residents of this County and the District. Everyone will have a seat at the table in my office.