



Candidate Survey for L.A. County Board of Supervisors, District 3 Responses for Candidate: Lindsey Horvath

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: Lindsey Horvath.

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:

As Supervisor, I want to continue reimagining community safety and our response to prioritize systems of care, rather than systems of punishment. Our educational system is a pipeline to the future with juvenile facility education being no exception. It is essential we prioritize education, for all students, to ensure each individual has a pathway to independence and prosperity as well as ensure we as a county do not fall behind other regions, states and even countries. Reforming the education system in our juvenile facilities cannot be overlooked if we are to uplift our County and its residents. I will commit to working with community leaders motivated by the genuine improvement of our students, as well as teachers, specifically in juvenile detention facilities, to reform our systems

generating positive, accountable outcomes. The Care First, Jails Last approach of this Board must continue to prioritize investment in community-based youth programs and the promise of our young people instead of their punishment in a carceral system.

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:

I believe that full reproductive rights and bodily autonomy of every human being must be ensured. California will become a refuge and a medical safe haven for women from other states seeking abortions and reproductive care. We must be ready to deploy these services to anyone in need. While serving as Mayor in the nation's first pro-choice city, we opened up the first Planned Parenthood Health Service Center in my city after the domestic terrorist attack on Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs. As Councilmember, I authored my city's coordinated plan of action with LA County to ensure all people - residents and those who will travel to safely access services - will be guaranteed their rights including access to legal abortion. I've used my position at the US Conference of Mayors to ask President Obama to speak to the importance of federal support for local governments that choose to be home to comprehensive reproductive health centers. I also served on the Board for Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project, providing funding to low-income women seeking emergency contraception and abortion services. I earned the endorsement of Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project of LA County and will strongly support and fiercely fight for programs that guarantee this access for Angelenos as well as anyone seeking care in our County.

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 strongly believe that our justice system is plagued with longstanding, structural inequities designed to hurt people of color. The Reimagine Child Safety Coalition is the type of change we need and I would be proud to support this. My first course of action would be to invest more funding in social work and behavioral crisis response teams - rather than law enforcement - to deal with issues of welfare. Additionally, I want to make sure Black children in the welfare system are safe from discrimination and neglect, which can be accomplished through strengthening communications with incarcerated parents and their children as well as community-based care projects rather than through the law-enforcement based welfare system, as demands 9 and 10 of the coalition state. Supervisor Mitchell also launched an all-important study of the differences in response to Black and BIPOC families by County services; we must evaluate the data and ensure proper interventions are deployed to ensure equitable treatment and care. I generally support actions to keep parents and children together when it is safe to do so, as removing a child can create lifelong trauma that often goes unrecognized. Furthermore, providing effective education is an absolute necessity to all children, especially children of color and those in the welfare program, as they are often overlooked without a strong guardian by their side.

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:

As Supervisor, I want to continue reimagining community safety to prioritize systems of care, rather than systems of punishment. I support this specific effort, timeline, and funding for the creation of the 4,000 new community care beds. We must move in this direction collectively, effectively, and without delay. This recommendation came from community as part of the process to inform Measures J & R, which were successfully passed by voters. We need to make good on the promises of these ballot measures, informed by the people of LA County, and stop the inhumane delays that continue to cost the County in liability dollars, public trust, and actual lives lost.

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:

Accountability and oversight are paramount to our ability to maintain a successful relationship with the public and the Sheriff's Department. Because sole authority does not reside with any one party to make this happen, the best person for the job is someone with experience navigating these issues with the parties involved; I am that person. I have had firsthand experience as Chair of the Liability Trust Fund Claims Board & Oversight Committee, where we oversee the liability cases that County Counsel handles for Contract Cities related to LASD, so I know what it takes to navigate these issues. As County Supervisor, I will work to ensure the necessary funding is directed to County Counsel to review records in a timely manner, and develop clear lines of communication and expectations for LASD.

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:

Access to public records is essential to accountability and education. Putting this ballot measure before the voters is an opportunity to reconnect with the public, while ushering in accountability mechanisms that build trust between the public, elected officials, and the government while holding those who are supposed to keep us safe accountable. I would prefer a ballot measure that changes the County Charter to have the Sheriff reportable to the Board instead of directly elected, to create more incentives beyond the withholding of funds for the Sheriff to work collaboratively with the Board, but I am willing to listen to the public to inform the changes we would make to improve accountability in the County and our justice system.

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:

As County Supervisor, I want to ensure all laws are just, clear, and followed. Full authority given under state law is an available tool. If that tool proves necessary, it will absolutely be implemented. Before any forceful measures are taken, direct communication between impacted parties will be exhausted prior to any enforcement. If communication fails to positively impact performance and fulfillment of job duties, more mechanisms should be utilized to bring alignment to our government, civic agencies, and the public.

Candidate Statement:

My career in public service has been dedicated to standing up for those who need it most — advancing rights, protecting safety, and improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized, has been central to my life’s work. I am the **ONLY** candidate with relevant, current experience and connections at the local level to implement real, on-the-ground, culturally-competent solutions to our District’s most urgent challenges. I am the **ONLY** candidate currently working within County leadership to implement solutions to our unhoused and housing crises as well as our broken criminal justice system; to improve health and quality of life through enhanced social programs; and to transform our County to a sustainable, clean energy future, especially for communities of color. I am the **ONLY** candidate who has direct experience navigating the LA County Sheriffs Department to implement real, lasting change - like my work to clear the backlog of untested rape kit evidence - and to hold them accountable - like my work as Chair of the Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board and Oversight Committee. I am the **ONLY** candidate who worked with businesses and workers to keep businesses safely open, to implement safe working conditions, and to be recognized for the work I did to protect our local economy during a pandemic. The unique, diverse coalition of support we have developed is reflective of the diversity of our district and county, and makes our campaign uniquely positioned to connect with **ALL** communities throughout the District.