

Elect Your Sheriff – Los Angeles
SHERIFF CANDIDATE QUESTIONS (2018)

Please respond by April 13th.

If you prefer not to answer a question, please write "No comment."

Submitted by Robert "Bob" Lindsey

Criminal Justice

- Will you commit to reducing custody arrests and instead using your discretion to issue a citation or to release individuals after booking?

Yes. Those arrested for non-violent or non-serious crimes may be cited out or released after booking. The considerations for release will be a review of their criminal history or lack of criminal history. The deciding factor for cite or release will be whether the release will jeopardize public safety. Understanding that some of those arrested may be suffering from a mental health crisis at time of arrest. I would have my Department work in partnership with the Department of Mental Health and seek input and evaluation from on-call mental health professionals before a cite or release decision is made in these instances. Compassion and rehabilitation needs to be a priority.

Education Advocacy

- At a time when students and parents across the country are worried about gun violence at school, the Trump administration's response is to put more guns into our nation's schools, either by arming teachers or by stationing armed security or police officers on campus. Recently, an incident in a California high school teacher, who is a reserve police officer, accidentally discharged his gun into the classroom's ceiling. "Debris or fragmentation" from the ceiling, according to the local police chief, struck a 17-year-old student, who was taken to the hospital for treatment.
 - Research has consistently demonstrated that armed staff in schools sow distrust between students and school staff, undermine positive school climate, criminalize students, and further heighten tensions on campus.

The learning environment of a school should be free of the stress of bullying, threats of violence and school shootings, yet we have seen an increase of these types of incidents nationwide. As the Sheriff of Los Angeles County I will work in partnership with local law enforcement agencies, school administrators and experts in counseling to develop best practices, policies and protocols for threat assessment teams countywide. The selection of Deputies to be interacting with our students is critical and a plan will be in place to ensure the mutual respect from student to deputy and deputy to student is vibrant, interactive and guiding.

- Do you support arming teachers? (Yes/No/Explain)

Yes on a limited and common sense basis, but as Sheriff, that authorization falls within the rules and policies of local school district boards. If teachers meet the requirements and mandatory training to carry a concealed weapon, then they should be permitted if they demand that opportunity.

- Do you support placing more permanent armed security guards or police officers on school campuses? (Yes/No/Explain)

Yes, I support having Peace Officers stationed at school campuses. A uniformed presence, along with security officers, secure access control measures (visitor sign in, ID badges and locking classroom doors) will help in providing a safe school system. I am also disappointed with fire codes that block school safety and protections of our students which needs to be addressed.

- Do you support keeping schools “gun free”? (Yes/No/Explain)

I support the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1995, but do believe that school administrators should have the authority to make the ultimate decision as it relates to the mandatory one year expulsion rule for its students. In addition, however, there needs to be a defined follow up, assistance and recognition that those expelled need a pathway for future success.

Immigrant Rights

- LA County has approximately 900k undocumented residents. As Sheriff, what steps would you take to protect undocumented residents and their families, and build trust with immigrant communities?

Protection, Respect, Assimilation, Safety, Approachability and Compassion are key elements that seem to be missing from current practices. As Sheriff, my deputies will not enforce immigration laws except on those committing violent and predatory crimes that make our community unsafe for everyone. The role of a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff is to protect the communities that we serve. This is everyone in our communities. Community members who are undocumented residents will get the same protection and respect as the rest of the community. They will be protected from being victimized by criminals with no questions asked about legal status. Trust is the fundamental issue in this regard. They need to feel safe when reporting all crimes including crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking.

- In 2017, California adopted SB 54, the California Values Act, to disentangle ICE from local law enforcement agencies and help ensure that residents can cooperate with the police without fear it will lead to their deportation. Do you

support SB 54? As Sheriff, what steps would you take to ensure the Department's compliance with the law?

Yes I support the spirit of SB54 which is intended to protect the community and all of its residents. The spirit of SB54 is to address major predators and focus on building and respecting and engaging positively with all residents. As Sheriff, I will ensure compliance with the law by being transparent. Transparency through monitoring, auditing and accountability. Groups such as the Office of Inspector General, ACLU and other vested Community Based Organizations will be asked to assist.

Jails

- The Sheriff has tremendous amount of power, including reducing sentences of those incarcerated in the jails. What steps do you plan on taking as Sheriff of LA County in reducing the population inside the LA County jails?

I would implement and utilize a comprehensive, evidence based needs and risk assessment for every inmate. The results of these assessments would determine the best course of action. Re-evaluating the earned credit system within the criminal justice system is also an issue that needs to be addressed.

- How do you plan on working and partnering with the LASD Civilian Oversight Commission? Specifically, what do you see their role is in holding LASD accountable and transparent in policies and practices?

Building an open and honest relationship with the LASD Civilian Oversight Commission is the first step, by giving them an insight to the Department and its areas of responsibilities. Only when the Commission has true insight can they understand the policies and procedures of the department.

As Sheriff, the Commission's role will be to increase transparency, build and increase public trust, clear and accessible complaint processes and ensure fair and thorough investigations are conducted.

LGBT, Gender + Reproductive Justice

- Transgender people are overrepresented in the Los Angeles County jails. Historically, most transgender women have been housed in the K6G "gay" unit at Men's Central Jail, while most transgender men have been housed at the CRDF "women's" jail. Auditors recently found LASD out of compliance with section 115.42(e) of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards, which requires the agency to give each transgender inmate's own views with respect to their own safety "serious consideration" when making facility and housing placement decisions. As Sheriff, would you move the Department toward allowing transgender individuals to be housed based on their gender identity when such a placement feels safe and appropriate for them-- and if so, how?

Understanding a safe jail environment for all persons entrusted into the care and custody of the Sheriff's Department is paramount....Yes, if deemed safe for the inmate, Transgender inmates may be allowed to be housed based on their gender identity. In fact, I would move to house transgender individuals together in an environment where they could benefit from understanding each other and working together in a system wherein they are encouraged to progress and grow while in the system.

- The ACLU opposes criminal penalties for the exchange of sex for money or other things of value, between consenting adults. Evidence abounds that criminalization of sex work is not an effective way to combat human trafficking, and in fact makes it more difficult and less safe for exploited sex workers to seek help. These problems disproportionately impact transgender women, others in the LGBTQ community, people of color, and women. Would you support a moratorium on prostitution prosecutions for consensual sex work, a formal policy of not pursuing prostitution charges against victims who report another crime that occurred while they were engaging in sex work, and/or other measures to enhance safety and security for people engaged in the sex trade?

The issue of sex workers and human trafficking is an area which has many facets.

I believe the focus has to begin on the "johns" involved in this industry. I will not tolerate the abuse of minors and exploitation of any kind when it comes to dealing with minors.

There has been recent developments with websites being shut down that facilitate the sex industry.

Health education for sex workers

- We know that 1.3 million children in the United States have mothers who are incarcerated, and 5 percent of women in jails nationwide are pregnant at admission. As the largest women's jail in the country, CRDF routinely houses (?) postpartum parents who need or want to breastfeed or pump breastmilk for delivery to their children. How will you ensure that parents are able to directly breastfeed or get their breastmilk to their children, and otherwise maintain family relationships while incarcerated in LA County? What alternatives to incarceration will you establish to this effect? What are your thoughts on construction plans for the new women's facility in Mira Loma?

The bond of a mother and newborn child contact is a necessity after childbirth. As Sheriff I will implement a nursery program in the LA County Jail system in which incarcerated mothers may be permitted to have extended contact or live with their newborns and infants.

For those expecting mothers who qualify, they may be placed in a community bed with ankle monitoring (funding via foundation funding, grant funding, non-profit or community based organizations). A complete risk and needs assessment will be done. This will allow the mother to give birth at a hospital instead of in jail. I am completely aware that

the birth of a child can completely change a person in the blink of an eye and that the baby deserves, needs, and must have those critical first moments bonding with the most important person they will ever know.

I do not support the Mira Loma facility being used for female inmates.

In addition, I would not build a new jail. There is no need to spend billions of dollars when the system we have can be refined to better serve the inmate or incarcerated population. The women should be moved to Central jail along with some other inmate populations that need to be segregated as family. Mira Loma needs to house AB109 since the State declares them non-violent and this will free bed space in the interior of the county. The entire jail system can be redefined and I will take that 2 billion for the new jail and solve 90% of the homeless issue and direct valid and caring and nurturing resources to the mental health problem and youth programs and rehabilitation programs. New walls and new doors don't build new lives.

Police Practices

- The Racial and Identity Profiling Act requires that law enforcement agencies collect and report data on each stop its officers conduct, including the perceived race of the individual stopped, the reason for the stop, and any action taken. The law does not specify how agencies should use this information. Do you commit to analyzing this information regularly and taking action – whether it is Department-wide or officer specific – if the results suggest that there is biased policing activity occurring?

Yes, I will conduct internal reviews of the data collected. The results of this review will determine the required action. I will not tolerate biased policing activity of any kind.