

Questions 1 & 2

We believe that equal justice for all includes putting an end to wealth-based inequality in our justice system. Reforming California's bail system is a critical part of this effort. On any given day, roughly 60% of people in California jails are being detained before trial or sentencing simply because they cannot afford to post bail.¹ Data show that Orange County spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to jail individuals whose cases are dismissed or against whom charges are never filed.² A California Court of Appeals has recently ruled that due process requires consideration of ability to pay and non-monetary alternatives before an individual can be detained when too poor to pay money bail.³ SB 10 (The California Money Bail Reform Act) aims to restructure - statewide - the current bail system and significantly reduce the use of money bail and prioritize services to help people make their court appearances while their cases move forward. The LA County Board of Supervisors has launched a study to evaluate, among other things, best practices for utilizing evidence-based risk assessment tools to ensure appearances in court and protect public safety without pretrial detention and for establishing a robustly-funded pretrial services entity to support these efforts.⁴

Question 1: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to reduce the use of pretrial detention?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce and support action by the Board of Supervisors to reduce the use of pretrial detention. I feel that the modernization of the pretrial system is urgently needed in Orange County and across counties in California. Experts in this field have weighed in with tangible and reliable data that confirms that thousands of individuals held in county jails across the State of California have not been convicted of a crime and are detained while awaiting trial simply because they cannot afford to post money bail or pay a commercial bail bond company. An unacceptably high percent of people in California jails are either awaiting trial or sentencing and that the percentage of individuals in this predicament is increasing. Data concludes that California has relied on pretrial detention at much higher rates than other states. To make matters worse, the consequences of pretrial detention- which include a greater likelihood of innocent people pleading guilty to a crime, longer sentences upon conviction, loss of employment, income, and housing, and traumatic family disruption- disproportionately affect people of color and low-income people. We should move toward studying fair best practices and implement them now.

¹ Sonya Tofoya, "Pretrial Detention and Jail Capacity in California," Public Policy Institute of California, July 2015, http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_715STR.pdf

² "Not in it for Justice," Human Rights Watch, April 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/04/11/not-it-justice/how-californias-pretrial-detention-and-bail-system-unfairly#page>

³ <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/ca-court-of-appeal/1886990.html>

⁴ "Motion by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis," Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, March 2017, <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/112060.pdf>

Question 2: Do you support passage of SB 10?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I support passage of SB 10. In short, SB 10 would put on the path towards having some legislative teeth to help us safely reduce the number of people detained pretrial, while addressing racial and economic disparities in the pretrial system. This bill will also ensure that people are not held in pretrial detention simply because of their inability to afford money bail. I strongly feel that California should follow the lead of the federal government and jurisdictions across the country that have stopped making wealth-based decisions on pretrial detention and instead have shifted to a system that evaluates whether an individual can be safely returned to the community. I am a staunch supporter of transparency in government and I feel that this bill will also take us a step closer in advocating for fair and transparent government law enforcement and judicial practices.

Question 3

The high profile trial of Scott Dekraai, the largest murder case in the County's history, revealed decades of constitutional violations by the Orange County District Attorneys' Office and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. For over thirty years, the Sheriff's Department has illegally operated secret snitch tanks in its jails, violating countless criminal defendants' right to an attorney, while the DA's Office unconstitutionally withheld evidence of the program's existence, benefits provided to the informants, and even of people's innocence, from defendants and defense attorneys. As the California Court of Appeal stated in upholding the recusal of the entire DA's office from prosecuting the Dekraai case, "The magnitude of the systemic problems cannot be dismissed."⁵ The Board of Supervisors controls funding to the DA and Sheriff and could exercise that control to require substantial reforms within the offices. Yet quarter after quarter and year after year, the Board has voted to allocate substantial portions of the County's budget, including the vast majority of money in Quarterly Budget Adjustments, to the agencies.

⁵ <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/ca-court-of-appeal/1755575.html>

Question 3: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to make continued funding of these agencies contingent upon their adoption of policies to prevent prosecutorial and law enforcement misconduct and mandating increased transparency?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce and support action by the Board of Supervisors to make continued funding of the D.A's office and the Sherriff's Department contingent upon adoption of policies to prevent prosecutorial and law enforcement misconduct and mandating increased transparency. The push for transparency in law enforcement is a constant struggle involving citizens, police officers, sheriff personnel, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges. The end result of this is a complex patchwork of different policies. There are several ways in which transparency (or its absence) is manifested in our justice system. To be clear, I feel that there is no justification for the public to be kept in the dark about how immense power is wielded by law enforcement. Funding should be a huge consideration in making sweeping and necessary changes to Orange County's law enforcement agencies.

Question 4

We believe that a true democracy requires an informed electorate that is able to hold its elected representatives accountable. As the Brown Act says, the Board of supervisors "and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business," and so the law requires that its "actions be taken openly and that [its] deliberations be conducted openly...The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." Yet over the years, the Board has fought multiple public battles, including in lengthy and costly lawsuits, resisting principles of government transparency, accountability and oversight. They have restricted the amount of time allowed and number of opportunities for public comment during their meetings, sometimes taking a combative tone with concerned community members, refused to disclose communications between government officials and agencies in violation of the Public Records Act, and authorized the immediate destruction of certain categories of public records to circumvent its disclosure rules.

Question 4: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to increase the amount of time devoted to and opportunity for public comments and the ability of the community to access important public records?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I do support action by the Board of Supervisors to increase the amount of time devoted to and opportunity for public comments and the ability of the community to access important public records. Reducing the ability for residents to express their thoughts and opinions is undemocratic. It's a very slippery slope down a path toward suppression and totalitarians. The public, in general, does not get many opportunities to present themselves before a Board. When we do get engaged

people to agree to come speak on a topic of importance, the last thing we should be doing is sending them away with message that they are not wanted or unwelcome by reducing their speaking time. This is the opposite of what we want which is to encourage active participation and community involvement. Ensuring that ALL residents have the tools and the knowledge that they need to access public records is also extremely important. Allowing people the time that they need is not the end all solution to promote a welcoming and participatory environment but it is a good start. It is also our right to be heard by our elected and we should not make attempts to curtail these rights.

Questions 5 & 6

We believe true freedom and equality includes the end to laws that criminalize homelessness (i.e. laws that make it a crime to sleep in public, even when people literally have nowhere else to sleep) and the right to housing and basic needs services, so all our communities can thrive. Orange County and 33 out of its 34 cities have ordinances that make it a crime to sleep in public. Enforcement of these ordinances is not a solution to homelessness. Because the County's severe shortage of affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and emergency shelter forces fully half of all people experiencing homelessness to sleep in public, they cannot comply with these laws. Enforcement only makes it more difficult for them to escape homelessness by burdening them with criminal records, heavy fines and fees, and jail time. On the other hand, providing people with safe, affordable housing as an immediate response to their needs is widely acknowledged as the most effective, humane, and fiscally responsible way to end homelessness. That's why we advocate in support of ending the criminalization of homelessness and expanding access to affordable housing and supportive services.

Question 5: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to repeal County and City laws that criminalize homelessness in Orange County?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce and support action by the Board of Supervisors to repeal County and City laws that criminalize homelessness in Orange County. Individuals experiencing homelessness are not criminals and should not be treated as such. We know what causes homelessness and it is not criminal activity. Addressing the issue of homelessness as a criminal issues flies in the face of common sense and is completely against what most economists, behavioral health experts, and other people in the social services field recommend.

We believe that access to permanent, affordable housing is critical to the County's efforts to end homelessness and reduce housing precarity for low-income households.

Question 6: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors that invests in a well-funded Countywide housing trust fund for affordable housing and supportive services?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors that invests in a well-funded Countywide housing trust fund for affordable housing and supportive services. The current swell of services are completely ignoring many of the core reasons that individuals become homeless, which is the growing divide between the rich and the poor in this County. We need to take a careful look at that and ensure that the services we are providing are actually designed to help people avoid falling into economic despair. We need to carefully review funding being spent and have experts and the homeless community tell us what is working and what needs more fine-tuning. The affordable housing crisis that we are facing affects the working and middle class in our communities. It affects students and recent graduates. It's a dominoes affect that touches lives across the entire income spectrum. Finding affordable housing solutions needs to be a priority for all elected leaders from school board members to city council and ultimately to Board of Supervisors. I believe that housing is a human right and that there should be no exception to this for anyone.

Question 7 & 8

The Trump Administration's aggressive immigration enforcement tactics threaten millions of immigrants, and their families, in California. These tactics rely on collaboration and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, as well as mining state and local databases and technologies for information about where immigrants live, work, and play to allow them to find and arrest people. The California Values Act (SB 54) is a state law that protects California residents by prohibiting local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration authorities in certain circumstances. Cities and counties within California have passed even greater protections for their immigrant residents. However, the Orange County Board of Supervisors recently voted to join a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of some provisions of the California Values Act, and the city of Los Alamitos is attempting to "exempt" itself completely from the binding state law.

Question 7: Would you support policies like the California Values Act that prohibit local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration authorities, including local policies that seek to protect from disclosure to ICE information about immigrants that is used only to locate people for civil immigration enforcement purposes?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I support policies like the California Values Act that prohibit local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration authorities, including local policies that seek to protect from disclosure to ICE information about immigrants. I am the Vice President of the Democrats of North Orange County. In my role as the Vice President, I have organized members of the community from each city in North County to fight vigorously for the rights of immigrants in our community. I have helped to organize rallies in Fullerton, Los Alamitos, and Yorba Linda to push back on the invasive and over reaching city councils that do not support all members of the community.

Because there is no right to appointed counsel in removal proceedings, most noncitizens are forced to fight their deportation cases without the assistance of a lawyer. For this reason, counties and cities have provided funding to help cover legal services for immigrants facing deportation. For example, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to contribute \$3 million dollars for this purpose.

Question 8: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to provide county funding for counsel for indigent Orange County residents in removal proceedings?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce and support action by the Board of Supervisors to provide county funding for counsel for indigent Orange County residents in removal proceedings. I believe in a fair fight. Indigent people need representation just as much, if not more so, as the next person does when going through removal proceedings. All residents need to be equipped with and given the tools for a fair process.

Question 9

We consider civilian oversight to be one of the most effective ways to ensure that a basic standard of care is provided to people in jail. Conditions that fail to meet constitutional, state and department standards for physical security, medical care, mental health care and living environment are unlawful and inhumane. A report by the ACLU SoCal Jails Project describes an environment of violence, abuse and unsanitary living conditions in Orange County's jails system, and a record of denial and indifference by the officials in charge.⁶ The report reveals arbitrary discipline, inadequate medical and mental health care, and faulty classification and grievance systems, among other violations. Despite scandals and investigations into the treatment of incarcerated people, the Orange County Sheriff's Department has ignored multiple calls for reform and failed to take action. In 2008, the Board of Supervisors created the Office of Independent Review (OIR) to oversee the department's handling of critical incidents, investigations of alleged officer misconduct, officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. The attorney-client relationship the office has with the department, however, impedes true independence. Hence, there remains a profound need for oversight that is neutral and objective to investigate the culture of violence and abuse in OC jails and reform policies throughout the county jail system. An impartial and independent oversight body can further the goal of transparency and accountability and also begin to restore public trust.

Question 9: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to create a civilian oversight body with substantive authority, including but not limited to subpoena and investigatory powers, of the Orange County Sheriff's Department?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to create a civilian oversight body with substantive authority, including but not limited to subpoena and investigatory powers of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. From my perspective some of the positive benefits of a civilian oversight body include a focus on monitoring, reporting, and strategic advising. A civilian oversight body would afford for value creation, accountability, and aid us in the creation of professional standards. All of these things are needed and I support them.

⁶ Esther Lim and Daisy Ramirez, "Orange County Jails," ACLU of Southern California, June 2017, <https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/ocjails2017-aclu-socal-report.pdf>

Question 10

We believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote. In California, 350,000 people incarcerated in county jails or on probation are eligible to vote, but may not be able to do so.⁷ Incarcerated individuals across the state face challenging informational and procedural barriers to voting. Complex laws and registration procedures, limited training, and poor coordination between election offices and the criminal justice system lead to the dissemination of inaccurate and misleading information.⁸ In Orange County, faulty policies and practices of the sheriff's department results in de facto disenfranchisement of incarcerated citizens. Ensuring access to their basic right to vote serves to protect and preserve the principles of democracy and may also facilitate rehabilitation and reduce the risk of recidivism.⁹

Question 10: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to create or mandate a voter education and registration program for justice-involved and justice-impacted individuals, including but not limited to public education and outreach, in the Orange County jail and probation systems?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to create or mandate a voter education and registration program for justice-involved and justice-impacted individuals, including but not limited to public education and outreach, in the Orange County jail and probation systems. Voter education is key to get people informed about their rights and the things that affect their daily lives. Justice-involved individuals often times are left out of the equation when we are seeking to educate voters yet most of or laws and regulations directly impact them and their families the most. Outreach to all individuals and educating them about the things that affect them is important to ensure that we give all people a fair shake in life toward success.

⁷"Voting Rights Barriers & Discrimination in Twenty First Century California: 2000-2013," Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, March 2014, <https://www.lccr.com/wp-content/uploads/Voting-Rights-Barriers-In-21st-Century-Cal-Update.pdf>

⁸ Erika Wood and Rachel Bloom, "De Facto Disenfranchisement," American Civil Liberties Union and Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, 2008, <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/publications/09.08.DeFacto.Disenfranchisement.pdf>

⁹ Matt Vogel, "The Violence of Voicelessness: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement on Recidivism," Berkeley La Raza Law Journal, 2012, <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1252&context=blrj>; "Felony Disenfranchisement: A Primer," The Sentencing Project, 2016, <http://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/felony-disenfranchisement-a-primer/>

Question 11

We believe all California youth deserve access to high quality community based services adequate to meet their needs. Recent years have seen crime rates in California fall to levels not seen since the 1960s.¹⁰ Orange County has similarly seen rapid downward trends in felony arrest and detention rates for youth in the juvenile justice system.¹¹ Both respect for basic human rights and the scientific consensus about adolescent development demonstrate that secure detention should only be used at last resort, with rehabilitative programming and support provided in community-based settings whenever possible.¹²

Question 11: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to expand investment in youth-development and community-based and controlled programs aimed to prevent and divert youth from contact with the juvenile justice system?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I do support action by the Board of Supervisors to expend all investment in youth-development and community-based and controlled programs aimed to prevent and divert youth from contact with the juvenile system. Investment in our youth is the only way that we can ensure a better tomorrow for all of us and I fully support youth programs in an education setting as well as the juvenile system.

¹⁰ "Crime in California 2016," California Department of Justice, August 2017, <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/downloads/pdfs/cd16.pdf>

¹¹ "Orange County," California Sentencing Institute, <http://casi.cjcj.org/Juvenile/Orange>

¹² Juan E. Méndez, "Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment," United Nations, March 2015, http://antitorture.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Children_Report.pdf; "Children Exposed to Violence," December 2012, U.S. Department of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>

Question 12

We believe high-quality community-based mental health services should be available to everyone in need and that ensuring access to these services will improve the lives of Orange County residents and also reduce negative interactions with law enforcement. According to a recent Grand Jury report,¹³ Orange County suffers from a severe shortage of psychiatric beds and other critical mental health services. The Mental Health Services Act provides funding to counties to address these shortages. However, according to a recent report¹⁴ by the California State Auditor, Orange County had built up over \$240 million in unspent Mental Health Services Act funding. The Orange County Board of Supervisors has the power to use these unspent funds to increase access to mental health services and supports for Orange County residents in need. In fact, the Board has recently committed \$90 million in unspent Mental Health Act Services Funding to permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness with mental illness.

Question 12: Would you introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to expend all available Mental Health Services Act funding for community-based mental health services?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Yes, I would introduce or support action by the Board of Supervisors to expend all available Mental Health Services Act funding for community-based mental health services. Recently, a huge disservice has been directed to all OC residents by the failure of the Health Care Agency to spend state and federal funding designed allocated to address housing and mental health conditions. The Mental Health Services Act provides much needed and critical funding to help address health disparities in our community. I fully support using these funds to address the needs of our mental health community and create programs that promote good health and resilience.

¹³ https://www.calhospital.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/grand_jury_mental_health_website_report_0.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2017-117.pdf> (pages 45-47)

Candidate Statement

Please provide a statement (not to exceed 250 words) to explain to ACLU members and activists and Orange County voters why, if you are elected, they can count on you to be a champion on the most pressing issues facing Orange County.

The Board of Supervisors approves the annual budget, contracts for projects and services, and makes appointments to boards, committees and commissions. As a County Budget Analyst with degrees in Public Administration/Finance and Sociology, I have a clear understanding of how to target health, housing, and workforce assistance dollars to those people and places where they would do the most good. And that's why I am the most qualified candidate to serve on the County Board of Supervisors. The County must conduct a thorough review of population requirements and district services, identify what is working, what is being overlooked, and determine areas for improvement. Healthcare, housing, and workforce programs have a social impact that affects the wellbeing of all residents in this district. We may have rapid employment growth, but jobs and housing are out of balance, resulting in a severe affordable housing shortage. Similarly, large populations in this district don't receive the healthcare services and job training benefits that would give them the hand up to prosper on their own. As your Supervisor, I will provide honest, transparent and fair local governmental oversight of relief programs so that Orange County taxpayers get the biggest bang for the buck.