

## 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. 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. 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. 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.

**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):

I would favor the pretrial service by agencies and only to those who have not had serious felonies. Since the bill have not yet passed, I would also request a study to evaluate those best practices requested by the LA County Board of Supervisor.

**Question 2:** Do you support passage of SB 10?

**YES** NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

### 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." 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.

**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):

In my opinion, no one person or agency should be above the rule of law.

### 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):

As a councilmember, I know I am there at the dais to serve and represent the people in our city and not my self-interest. When Mayor, I have been respectful of those wishing to speak during the public comment portion and have received emails thanking me for being courteous and professional. I would support to increase the amount of time for public comment and the public's right of access to important public records.

## 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):

Enforcement has been the first step taken to remedy the concern of citizens as the population of homeless grew; it does nothing to help the homeless person, in fact, as you commented, it adds to their burden.

More cities in North Orange County have now contracted with agencies such as City Net to provide a collaborative comprehensive approach where advocacy groups, concerned citizens, businesses, law enforcement, cities, and other non-profits work together to assist the homeless in our communities. I would support the ending of criminalization of homelessness.

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):

I am a board member of an affordable nonprofit housing organization named NWOC, Neighborworks Orange County who, in 1991, assisted me in getting into our affordable home in North Orange County. I know how difficult it is for those desiring to live in Orange County and more so for those who are homeless.

I would support the investment of funds for affordable housing and supportive services. I would request advisors from non-profit housing agencies be involved in the efforts.

### **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):

Anything that threatens and breaks up a family whether they be U.S. citizens or immigrants, I am oppose to.

As a candidate running for city council in 1994, I opposed Proposition 187; I oppose the County Board of Supervisors joining the SB54 lawsuit challenge.

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):

### **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. 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):

### 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. 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. 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.

**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):

### 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. Orange County has similarly seen rapid downward trends in felony arrest and detention rates for youth in the juvenile justice system. 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.

**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):

Senator Josh Newman has recently provided funds to help at-risk youth with services that will assist in keeping them in school and away from drugs, gangs, and dropping out of school. The organization which I founded has received some of the funding to continue our efforts to support at-risk kids in low-income neighborhoods.

Rosie's Garage started in my garage to help kids after school with their homework in 1991. The organization received the 1000 Points of Light Award from President Clinton and the Caring Award from the Caring Institute in Washington DC. Rosie's Garage has turned around a neighborhood that had once called into the police department 1300 times in a two-year period.

Yes, I would support the Board of Supervisor to the programs to divert youth from contact with the juvenile justice system.

### **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, 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 report 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):

## 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.

I have 17 years of experiences as a councilmember and nominated as Mayor of La Habra 4 times.

I live in a low-income neighborhood and every day I walk out my front door, I am reminded of how much work there is left to help folks like my neighbors gain a decent living.

My goal is to bring a community-minded voice in addressing homelessness, affordable housing, healthcare and other important issues. I will dedicate the same community-minded energy and devotion to the 4<sup>th</sup> District community as I have done on the La Habra City Council and Rosie's Garage.

Serve on the following boards & committees:

- St. Jude Community Benefit Committee – addressing the health and quality of life needs of local communities
- Advance! – addressing access and assistance to college
- NWOC – addressing homeownership
- SCAG – Community, Economic and Human Development committee
- OCCOG – Cities-at-Large representative
- League of California Cities – 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy Board
- Rosie's Garage – Executive Director/Founder