

## **Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire**

### **Candid Conversations with Candidates**

*The following questions present an opportunity to learn more about your views on the criminal justice system and your vision for Gwinnett County.*

1. How have you explored alternatives to incarceration throughout your career?  
As a private defense attorney, I always investigated my cases to develop the true facts. Once those facts are brought forward, I strove to convey them and many times I was successful in getting cases dismissed with an analysis of the law. I also have worked in the Solicitor's Office of Gwinnett County where we dismissed multiple drug charges due to the issue with the Hemp legislation. At present, I have spoken with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and reviewed the 2020 Action plan. Therein, incarceration is the last alternative, not the first objective.
  
2. What can a Gwinnett District Attorney do to affirm Black Gwinnett residents trust in the criminal justice system? My purpose, as the first African American and female elected to this position, would be to work with the community and stakeholders to assure that children do not come into the system in the first place. I would identify high-risk persons and institute programs to deter them from going down the wrong track. I would also engage youth who are aware of the pitfalls of coming into the system to speak with their peers about the risks of crimes. Further, I will be known for fair and equal application of justice.
  
3. What will make your tenure as DA positively different than previous Gwinnett DAs? Specifically, what aspects of the criminal justice system in Gwinnett and Georgia would you like to see changed? I would like to see laws like "stand your ground" and "citizen arrest" laws abolished. Further, I would more widely use pre-trial deterrence courts more consistently overall. I would also promote programs with policing agencies so that social workers and mental health professionals are involved in the early stages to assist individuals who need help.

## **Black American Futures PAC - Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire**

4. Will your office avoid prosecution of relatively harmless, non-violent crimes (for example, low-level marijuana cases, loitering, minor traffic offenses)? Yes.

5. How do we remedy the historical and systemic injustices experienced by Black Americans in Gwinnett?

I will engage with the community proactively and creatively to explore challenges that exist in Gwinnett. I would not be blind to what has happened with Black and Brown people receiving harsher sentences and the heavy hand of the law. I will also strive to make sure the people of Gwinnett are safe and that we use our resources to provide a better life-style for all residents.

6. Given the increase in public demonstrations against police brutality, what can be done to better support the 1st Amendment rights of our communities while also ensuring the safety and prosperity of our communities? Officers in all of our cities and unincorporated areas must be cognizant to the rights of our citizens to peacefully protest. There has been a great reason for the demonstrations. As I walked with our young people at these marches, I have a renewed hope for the future of our community because our youth are involved. Their right to protest must be upheld.

7. The African-American community is, by the numbers, over-policed compared to other racial and ethnic groups. This can negatively impact the lives, long term success, and general well-being of our community members. How will you work to mitigate the impacts of law enforcement policies that disproportionately target Black communities? We have recently been exploring in our Community the disparate discipline directed at students of color. This issue has been identified and is a cause of distress and the pressure must not let up to resolve this issue. I will work directly with our police agencies and push for implicit bias training and community engagement.

### **Belief Statements**

*To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with the following statements? Please include a detailed explanation of your response.*

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1. There is a history of Black people getting longer sentences compared to those of other races for similar crimes.

I agree with this statement. The history since slavery and the evolution of it, clearly demonstrates this issue. Numerous studies have also shown that this is true. Although drug use is similar with Black people and Whites, there is a clear difference in how Blacks are treated and prosecuted.

2. The justice system makes it difficult for victims to come forward with sexual assault allegations.

The justice system does not make it easy for victims of such crimes to come forward. Typically, there is a re-victimization of individuals that have been assaulted. Victim rights legislation like Marsy's Law has helped with protecting the victims. Within the prosecutor's office are specialized victim rights advocates that also engage with victims for resources and help through the system.

3. Socio-economic factors play a significant role in people's motivation to commit crimes.

I do not agree with this statement. Crimes are committed by individuals across the economic spectrum.

**Thanks for completing our questionnaire. If there is anything else you'd like to share with voters about yourself or your campaign, please use the space below to do so:**

I will strive to be the best District Attorney who has ever served our county! I will seek to keep our children out of the system in the first place and work with the stake-holders in our community to keep it safe. I will approach our issues in a proactive and creative manner to find lasting solutions.