

Updated May 31, 2020

# Where Do Washtenaw County Prosecutorial Candidates Stand on Issues of Mass Incarceration?

## Candidate Survey Responses

All three candidates were provided the following survey questions. Their answers are marked as follows:



yes



no

Candidates were also allowed to comment and explain their responses. An asterisk (\*) marks yes/no answers that (1) are contradicted or undermined by survey comments, campaign platforms and/or public statements made at debates, or (2) make exceptions to the full demand. More detail can be found in our analysis, which is linked on our website.

**UPDATE:** After the release of our scorecard on May 26, Savit contacted our team and requested that two of his survey answers be corrected to reflect his commitment to the following platform demands: Decriminalize Mental Health and Poverty: End cash bail—YES. Treat Kids with Dignity and Respect: End the policy/practice that disallows youth with criminal background records to participate in restorative justice programming—YES. We have not received feedback or clarifications from any other candidates.



liberatedontincarcerate.org  
@liberatedontincarcerate

# Stop Targeting Black, Brown, Indigenous & Immigrant Communities

	Mack	Savit	Slay
Reject high tech interventions that reinforce racism such as risk assessment tools.			
Actively instruct trial attorneys to not share information with deportation authorities about individuals who are present in the courts or held in jail.			
Decline to prosecute undocumented community members who do not have licenses.			
Partner with an independent and external evaluator to assess all cases for any form of racial profiling and immediately drop all charges stemming from such incidents.			
Create a detailed plan outlining how the Prosecutor's Office will achieve at least a 50% consistent reduction in charging against aggressively policed communities of color.			
Provide independent language translation and interpretation in people's preferred languages in all interactions with the Washtenaw County system that does not require a relationship with ICE or Border Patrol.			

## Ensure Transparency & Accountability

Provide open & early access to all information necessary for a case's defense			
Commit to transparency by creating and maintaining a publicly accessible interactive data dashboard for adult and juvenile systems. The dashboard should showcase both prosecutor behavior and case outcomes, and have the option to disaggregate by race, gender, income, geography, and ethnic background as well as by case type.			
Create and maintain a mechanism of community feedback and oversight.			
Hold police accountable for killing, injuring, and profiling Washtenaw County residents.			
Hold prosecuting attorneys accountable for overcharging and wrongful convictions.			
Reduce harms of prior prosecutions through conviction review, sentencing reductions, and the development of legal resources for wrongfully convicted individuals.			

## Decriminalize Mental Health & Poverty

In place of prosecution, provide options and resources on a consent-basis for people with self-identified or suspected mental illness.			
Divert those with substance use challenges to treatment programs.			
Commit to partnering with harm reduction organizers, experts, and practitioners to create harm reduction community based treatment and use models (safe injection sites, naloxone and other opioid antagonist interventions, access to community based medication assisted treatments).			
Decline to prosecute for homelessness, vagrancy, and loitering and instead divert community members to resources and services.			
Decline to prosecute sex workers.			
Decline to prosecute any criminal charges that arise from traffic related offenses (jaywalking, not having a license, driving with suspended license or warrants, or failure to appear or pay fines and court costs.)			
End cash bail.			

## Treat Kids with Dignity & Compassion

	Mack	Savit	Slay
Divert youth to existing developmentally appropriate, rehabilitative wrap-around community-based alternatives, making any interaction with the court system unnecessary.			
Always decline to prosecute youth for misdemeanors and school-based arrests, including truancy.			
Provide effective legal representation to youth.			
End the option of blended sentencing (sentencing that pushes youth as adult sentences towards 'most of natural life').			
Disregard mandatory minimum sentences.			
Publicly support eliminating the presence of law enforcement officers at Washtenaw County schools and transit stops, and replace them with restorative justice facilitators, peer-to-peer models, and other evidence-based program experts.			
Interrupt the Foster Care to Prison Pipeline by not charging children in foster care for curfew violations, running away, homelessness, survival sex, and violation of court-imposed conditions.			
End the policy/practice that disallows youth with criminal background records to participate in restorative justice programming.			

## Stop the Machine

Always seek the lowest charge.			
Always decline to apply mandatory minimum charges.			
Shorten the time people spend in jail between arrest and arraignment.			
Limit the use of restrictive pretrial release conditions such as drug testing, electronic monitoring, in-person reporting and participation in program and counseling.			
Always decline to seek life sentences without the possibility of parole or virtual life sentences (50 to 100 years).			
Drop charges and release people currently being held in jail or monitored for offenses that are no longer being prosecuted;			
Clear records of individuals who have convictions for offenses that are no longer being prosecuted.			
Refuse to utilize surveillance technology and practices (i.e. probation, tether).			

## Divest from the Machine

	Mack	Savit	Slay
Youth and adult detention facilities.			
Arrests and creation of criminal records.			
Treatment Courts (i.e. mental health & drug) that criminalize behavior			
School Resource Officers			
Police as conflict mediators.			

## & Invest in Communities

Diversion programs that are trauma-informed, anti-racist and developmentally appropriate that also meet basic needs.			
Re-entry infrastructure for those exiting jail, specifically housing for youth aging out of foster care and sex offenders.			
Meeting immediate needs by supporting bail funds and funds to provide legal services to people targeted for criminalization and deportation.			
Community organizations currently working to: challenge criminalization; advocacy for reproductive, gender, sexual and disability justice; support children of incarcerated parents; and are led by people directly targeted by criminalization, particularly those of color.			
Building alternative responses to violence and harm.			
Special education advocates to support Individualized Education Plans, to ensure that students with disabilities get the support they deserve.			



Answers that are contradicted or undermined by survey comments, campaign platforms and/or public statements made at debates. More detail can be found in our analysis, which is linked on our website.



liberatedontincarcerate.org  
@liberatedontincarcerate