

# **ELECTIONS MATTER: PROSECUTORS ARE COPS, TOO!**

Police violence is not the result of a single police officer brutalizing BIPOC. It is the product of an intricate and intentional system designed to oppress the marginalized while protecting and immunizing law enforcement – a system that includes district attorneys. District attorneys (DAs) are elected officials and answer to us. Prosecutorial discretion is perhaps the most powerful and oppressive mechanism in our justice system. Prosecutors are the gatekeepers of mass incarceration and the protectors of violent cops. They are not a degree removed from police violence; they *are* police violence. It is not a judge who decides not to prosecute violent cops or to disproportionately charge BIPOC. It is not a judge who controls what sentence a criminal defendant will face, if any. It is a DA. DAs use their power to perpetuate police violence, and it must stop. We as voters have the power to stop them, and we as attorneys have the perspective from inside the courtroom that allows us to challenge the typically misunderstood narratives promised by so-called progressive DAs. We bear witness to many of their failed campaign promises. To every sitting DA and candidate running for DA, CAAPV issues the following demands.

## **D E M A N D S**

### **1. LET KIDS BE KIDS**

Stop charging children as adults. Do not charge children with misdemeanor offenses. Use diversion as first option prior to detention, arrest or filing charges.

End cash bail and pretrial detention unless there is a demonstrably imminent, violent threat to public safety. Stop filing habitual counts and other oppressive sentence enhancements. Do not lock people up for non-violent offenses, misdemeanors, or technical probation violations.

### **2. REDUCE MASS INCARCERATION AND PRETRIAL DETENTION**

### **3. INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

End relationships with police unions, and reject any campaign contributions from them. Collect and publicly report race data on prosecutions and case dispositions. Appoint an independent team to review pending and closed police violence cases. Do not prosecute cases when law enforcement destroyed evidence, when any evidence has been illegally obtained, or when any law enforcement officers have IAB files for untruthfulness.

Divert funds to rehabilitation. Do not charge low level or non-violent offenses or assault on a peace officer cases. Increase restorative justice programs to include felony charges, and as an alternative to convictions. Make victim advocates independent of the DA's office, and do not prosecute if the victim does not want to pursue charges. Prioritize the consideration of collateral consequences caused by convictions.

### **4. PRIORITIZE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES OVER CHARGING CRIMES**