

QUESTIONS: DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEBATE
PRECINCT 2056 & 2055
FEBRUARY 4, 2014

1. Why are **you** the **strongest** candidate in an election against **the incumbent Democratic DA**?
2. With a staff of some **600**, the Office of the District Attorney is organizationally comparable to a **very large law firm**.

QUESTION

Should the DA function primarily as an **executive** rather than a trial lawyer **or** should the DA regularly **try cases**? How does **your** background and experience equip **you** to fulfill the **executive role**? Describe any **specific changes** that **you** intend to make to the **current** organizational structure of the office.

3. In 2007 the current DA established a **Conviction Integrity Unit** to investigate claims of **wrongful conviction** in Dallas County and to secure the **exoneration** of **innocent** defendants.

QUESTION

Will **you maintain** that Unit? Why? And **if so**, what **changes** would you make?

4. There has been some discussion in Republican circles regarding the **propriety** of **employees** of the DA's office running for **public office** with the **suggestion** that the DA **should preclude** such actions by employees of the office.

QUESTION

Does the DA have the **authority** to **require** that an Assistant District Attorney **resign** his or her position before running for public office, and **if so**, should that policy be established and why? If you **support** such a policy, should it also apply to **political Party positions** such as County Chairman? **Also**, if you support such a policy, should **you** choose to run for another office at **some time** during your term as DA, will **you resign** at the time you announce your candidacy?

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5. In its last session, the legislature passed **SB 1611**, which **broadens substantially** the evidentiary **disclosure requirements** imposed on the state in connection with **criminal** prosecutions.

QUESTION

Did you support the passage of SB 1611? Why? Do you anticipate that those procedures will **slow down** the prosecution of crimes? If so, what can and should the DA do to **mitigate** the projected **slowing** and to **mitigate** the increase in **jail crowding** that will result from that projected slowing? In this regard, can and should the DA implement a program of identifying **non-violent, low risk of flight** offenders for reduced or personal recognizance bonds?

6. **Cooperation by law enforcement agencies:**

QUESTION

What can and should the DA do to **foster cooperation by law enforcement agencies** in fulfilling the state's obligations under SB 1611? What should the DA do if he/she learns of a **failure** by a law enforcement agency **to fulfill** its obligations under that law? What should the DA do if he/she learns of a **repeated failure** by a law enforcement agency to fulfill its obligations under that law?

7. There has been conflict between the current DA and the **Commissioners Court** during **Budget time**.

QUESTION

How do you plan to work with the Commissioners Court during budget time, and do you foresee any **challenges**?

To view the full unedited video of the entire debate visit: precinct2056.com