

Smart. Fair. Justice.

**MIKE**

**SCHMIDT**

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**PLATFORM**

## 1. Mike Schmidt has a smarter approach to justice.

Mike knows we can dramatically improve the fairness, effectiveness and cost of our criminal justice system. **As District Attorney, Mike Schmidt will make Multnomah County safer by:**

- **Trusting the data, not the stories.** Mike's goal is to make sure that every sentence is aimed at ensuring public safety by minimizing the chances a defendant will reoffend. Sometimes, that means a long prison sentence. But for many offenders, data tells us that a long incarceration without incentives and access to programming makes reoffending far more likely. Mike will build a data-driven, transparent system of prosecution that relies on local and national research about what is proven to work in sentencing.
- **Prioritizing addiction counseling and mental health treatment.** Many prosecutors make it a habit to require the defendant to negotiate away their right to treatment while incarcerated. This makes no sense. Mike will never stop defendants from receiving the treatment and services they need to recover, and he will put treatment first whenever possible.
- **Focusing on violent crimes first.** Approximately two-thirds of the cases prosecuted by the Multnomah County DA are misdemeanors. Mike will refocus the resources of the office on violent crimes—like murder, sexual assault, and domestic violence—and look for ways to handle non-violent, low-level cases through alternative avenues.
- **Supporting common sense gun safety laws.** District attorneys can, and should, be a leading voice in the call for gun safety laws nationwide and in Oregon. Mike supports expanding background checks for all gun purchases, and he supports laws that require guns to be stored safely and responsibly.
- **Not seeking the death penalty.** Mike opposes the death penalty and believes it is wrong. It is expensive, inefficient, racially-biased, and does not deter crime. As our next District Attorney, Mike will not seek the death sentence under any circumstances. He believes a lifetime in prison is punishment enough for even the most violent crimes.

## 2. Mike Schmidt will stand up to the Trump administration's attacks on immigrants and our civil liberties.

The Trump administration is pushing regressive policies that run roughshod over the civil rights and the wishes of our local communities. **As District Attorney, Mike Schmidt will stand up to the Trump administration's reckless policies by:**

- **Not cooperating with ICE.** Oregon law is clear: Law enforcement should not cooperate with ICE beyond what is legally required. As DA, Mike will not spend our local resources to help ICE use courthouses as traps to target defendants, crime victims, or witnesses. All Oregonians should feel safe reporting crimes and showing up to court.
- **Protecting our immigrant communities.** The criminal justice system falls heavy on immigrant communities, both as defendants and victims. The federal government's threat to deport even low-level offenders deters crime victims from coming forward. As our next DA, Mike will push prosecutors to consider possible immigration consequences when handling criminal cases.
- **Not returning to the failed drug policies of the past.** US Attorney General William Barr wants to return to the failed "war on drugs" and heavy penalties for low level, non-violent drug offenses. This is a big step backwards. As DA, Mike will treat addiction as a public health issue and put treatment first.
- **Ensuring accountability for police misconduct.** Most police officers and prosecutors do their jobs because they care deeply about our community and public safety. But we know that sometimes law enforcement fails to follow the law or their own procedures. As our next DA, Mike will hold officers engaged in brutality and misconduct accountable, even in the face of resistance from the federal Department of Justice. He will ensure transparency and independent review of all cases involving law enforcement misconduct and violence.

### 3. Mike Schmidt will always stand up for victims and survivors.

When people turn to the criminal justice system for help, it can be one of the worst days of their lives. **As our next DA, Mike Schmidt will stand up for crime victims and their families—and put a new focus on healing victims by:**

- **Fighting for additional resources for victims of crime.** Victims of crime frequently need access to social services and other resources so they can heal and thrive. Criminal justice reform must focus on their needs, too. Money saved by being smarter on crime should be reinvested into programs that help victims heal—like trauma treatment, housing, and education.
- **Fixing the process.** We ask a lot of crime victims. We ask victims to relive their trauma in front of strangers. We ask them to take time off of work to attend court proceedings that can go on for months. Mike will convene a diverse workgroup of people who are survivors and victims of crime to get their advice and insight on how we can improve trauma-informed victim-centered services in Multnomah County.
- **Supporting the creation of new restorative justice programs.** Research shows that when victims can choose to participate in a restorative justice program to repair the harm caused to them by crime, their satisfaction with the justice system improves dramatically. Restorative justice programs have also been shown to reduce future criminal behavior. Mike will support restorative justice programs for crime victims when *they* decide that they want to participate.

### 4. Mike Schmidt will fight racism and bias in our criminal justice system.

The numbers don't lie: In Oregon, our criminal justice system disproportionately impacts people of color. They are more likely to be stopped, more likely to be arrested, more likely to be

prosecuted for drug-related offenses, and more likely to receive prison sentences. It's time for bold changes to address these systemic inequities. **As District Attorney, Mike Schmidt will work to make our criminal system fairer by:**

- **Identifying and confronting historical and systemic racism.** It is widely understood that many of our criminal laws and practices are rooted in prejudice, bigotry, and racism. Mike will work with the community and other experts to identify, confront, and repeal these policies.
- **Exposing racial bias and discriminatory practices in sentencing.** Mike will provide aggregated data to the public on an ongoing basis about the office's sentencing decisions—including racial and ethnic information—through an internet dashboard that can be used by anyone, at any time.
- **Listening to the community to improve policy and training.** In his first year in office, Mike will convene a community oversight committee to conduct a comprehensive overview of all policies and training procedures of the District Attorney's office. All new policies will be made public and posted online.
- **Leading the fight against hate and bias crimes.** As our next DA, Mike will appoint a dedicated Hate and Bias Crimes prosecutor who will be properly educated and trained on these issues. Along with prosecuting the offenders, this attorney will actively work with communities targeted by hate and bias activity in our county.

## 5. Mike Schmidt will make the system fair.

Our criminal justice system needs to work for everybody—not just the wealthy, the well-connected, or the lucky. **As District Attorney, Mike Schmidt will:**

- **Oppose mandatory minimum sentences.** Mike is in favor of repealing Oregon's extreme Ballot Measure 11, which enacted mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes. These policies contribute to mass incarceration in Oregon and around the country. To put it simply: We should let judges judge. By moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach to sentencing and allowing judges to take into account the defendant's history, the prosecutor's argument, a victim's impact statement and the facts of the case, we can ensure we are making the best sentencing decisions for our community.
- **Share all evidence with the defense—no matter what.** Our criminal justice system can't work fairly if a person charged with a crime doesn't have the whole story. Mike will make sure any defendant charged by his office receives all exculpatory evidence relevant to their case.
- **Review wrongful convictions with an open mind.** A wrongful conviction can occur even when everyone is doing their best, but it can also result from the misconduct of a police officer or prosecutor. Mike will commit to providing full and independent review to all reasonable claims of innocence, including expanded access to DNA testing
- **Address the needs of women offenders.** Women are the fastest growing segment of our prison population over the past three decades. As DA, Mike will create a specialty unit that will take a gender-responsive approach to prosecution and work with community partners and system stakeholders to ensure women are treated fairly and with dignity.
- **Treat youth as youth.** Mike will aggressively implement the mandates and spirit of The Youth Justice Reform Law (SB 1008) passed by the Legislature in 2019. As DA, he will strive

to keep youth offenders in the juvenile system and out of the adult system—and work to shift the focus to prevention and rehabilitation.

- **Support funding for public defenders.** Mike knows that public defenders have a vital role to play in our justice system. He will advocate for additional resources to improve their pay and reduce their caseloads.
- **Support unanimous juries.** Oregon is the only state that allows criminal defendants to be convicted by a non-unanimous jury. This practice is a product of racism and xenophobia. Mike supports the repeal of non-unanimous juries at the state level.

## 6. Mike Schmidt will stop criminalizing poverty.

For people barely making ends meet, a few tickets, or even one fine, can put them in a debt spiral they may never be able to dig themselves out of. **As DA, Mike Schmidt will stop penalizing defendants for being poor and work to remove barriers so everyone is equal before the law by:**

- **Getting rid of cash bail.** Hundreds of people in our jails have never been convicted of a crime. If the only reason they are being held in jail is because they don't have the money to bail out, they should be released. While awaiting trial in jail, people lose jobs and housing, regardless of the outcome of their case. As DA, Mike will work with the county to develop and invest resources in pretrial services that give people the tools they need to live and succeed. In addition, Mike will work with state legislators to modernize Oregon law and end the cash bail system.
- **Not punishing an honest inability to pay.** Mike will stop the harsh practice of suspending licenses and otherwise punishing people because of an honest lack of ability to pay a fine. If a fine is the appropriate consequence, Mike will support assessing fines based on a person's ability to pay.
- **Focus prosecution on sex traffickers instead of endangering sex workers.** Some sex workers might need access to social services, counseling, or other supports, but they don't need more nights in jail. Instead, Mike will focus on prosecuting sex traffickers and finding public health-driven alternatives to pointless incarceration of those voluntarily engaged in sex work.
- **Giving people credit for getting their lives back on track by reducing criminal record expungement time from 10 to 5 years for qualifying individuals.** Using research as a guide, Mike will advocate for removing barriers and allowing people to clear their record so they can get better-paying jobs, find housing and move on with their lives.
- **Expanding specialty courts.** Mike supports establishing a problem-solving court, similar to Oregon's drug courts and veterans courts, for houseless individuals who face minor charges (such as trespassing). These programs can give people a chance to avoid pointless convictions and penalties while working with social service providers to move towards self-sufficiency.

**To learn more about Mike Schmidt and his campaign for Multnomah District Attorney, visit [MikeSchmidtForDA.com](https://mikeschmidtforda.com)**