



Candidate Name: Lauren Lipscomb
Position: Baltimore County State's Attorney
District: N/A

What unique strengths do you have for this position and what do you hope to accomplish if (re)elected?

Prosecution in Baltimore County must advance into the present day. In order to do that without costing our safety, the next top prosecutor must have demonstrated relevant public safety prosecution experience, an understanding of how to run operations, and the proven ability to identify and mitigate stagnation. In other words, to consider a more familiar field: I feel very strongly about ending cancer, but that does not make me an oncologist, I should not run an oncology department.

I am uniquely postured to be the next elected Baltimore County State's Attorney because my record is proven on all three fronts as I am a veteran public safety prosecutor who will bring over two decades of prosecutorial, innovative administrative leadership, and managerial experience to work for our community here in Baltimore County.

First, I have prosecuted thousands of cases from simple theft to DV to murder in all stages of the criminal justice process.

Second, I know how to run a large agency. I have successfully served in various leadership and management positions both inside and outside of my current public safety prosecution agency.

Third, I bring a proven record of understanding that advancement in prosecution must happen – stagnation leads to unfair outcomes. I am a nationally recognized subject matter expert on conviction integrity prosecution, which is an advanced area of post-trial prosecution. The purpose of conviction integrity prosecution is to ensure that criminal justice outcomes are fair and just – commensurate with current, modern-day approaches. In my current supervisory role, I created, developed and operate the conviction integrity program which success has been recognized across the nation. I regularly provide advice, presentations and trainings to prosecutors across the state and country.

My approach will be through the lens of always putting victims and the safety of our community first.

When elected, my action items will be to:

- 1) Develop a robust, cohesive post-trial prosecution unit. This will improve outcomes in domestic violence/sex offense, violent repeat offender, and juvenile crime.
- 2) Modernize the office's technological capabilities. This will advance data management and transparency which will improve case quality and community relationships. This will also more clearly identify areas of needed prosecution focus, such as crimes involving vulnerable adults and seniors.
- 3) Prioritize community outreach and victim/survivor resources. This will improve quality of life outcomes, build stronger cases, and rebuild community confidence.



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4) Rebuild internal training, recruitment and professional development. High rates of staff departures in a prosecution agency directly impact quality of case outcomes. We will focus on driving up salary parity for all staff members, enhancing professional development and wellness opportunities, and overall workplace morale improvement.

I have demonstrated the experience to immediately get to work on these action items from Day 1 in office – not just because I want the job, but because I can actually do the job – successfully.

How should juvenile offenders be treated in the criminal justice system and what age limits should determine their treatment as adults?

My answer is borne from actual, extensive prosecution experience – I have personally handled many of these cases and juvenile waiver hearings.

The focus of the adult criminal justice system differs from the juvenile system when a crime is committed. In the adult system, the system is punishment focused. In the juvenile system, the system is rehabilitation focused. Neither of these are absolute nor should they be construed in a vacuum. Current, pending legislation in Annapolis has ignited debate over whether juveniles, under 18 years old, should be charged as adults. There is a pervasive misunderstanding that charging and housing are the same. They are not.

First, as to charging juveniles, it is critical to retain our current system. In short, over 14 can be charged with first degree murder and first degree rape as adults. Over 16 can be charged with certain violent felonies. I support this current system and we cannot afford the public safety price tag which comes from the legislation proposed to get rid of adult charging. To be clear, any juvenile charged in the adult system gets a waiver hearing. At that waiver hearing, a judge decides – based on a number of offender-specific factors – whether to keep the juvenile in the adult system or transfer them back to the juvenile system. Should the law change, there will be a clear cause and effect, guns on the streets will increase, period. I support the current, existing charging system.

Second, as to housing juveniles, it is critical for the Department of Juveniles Services (DJS) to ensure the safety of juvenile offenders by housing juveniles away from adult offenders. It is inexcusable to continue the apparent deficient approach to juvenile housing which imperils the safety of juvenile offenders daily. I do not support DJS's apparent deficient response to ongoing juvenile housing safety concerns. We need to focus all our attention on housing.



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What stance will you take regarding undocumented persons living in the County? Please address how would you act regarding current federal policies' impacts and expectations that law enforcement bodies in local jurisdictions cooperate with ICE.

My answer is borne from actual, extensive prosecution experience. I have personally assisted numerous undocumented witnesses and victims with their UVISA application process as a line prosecutor and I have signed off on UVISA application approvals in my supervisory capacity. I understand the incredible vulnerabilities of our undocumented communities who often fall prey to predators. Local prosecution and federal immigration are completely different jurisdictions. Entwining the purview of the two requires incredibly complex legal wrangling the outcome of which would likely have very little enforcement ability.

This said, when elected, I will be the top prosecutor for all of Baltimore County regardless of document status. Any person residing in Baltimore County deserves to do so without worrying about crime.

How should the office's Domestic Violence Unit handle cases of domestic violence that include undocumented victims and/or perpetrators?

I would refer to my answer above – which is borne from actual, extensive prosecution experience. I have personally prosecuted many post-trial cases involving undocumented victims of domestic crimes – domestic violence, child/sex abuse, and other domestic sexual offenses. I have personally assisted numerous undocumented witnesses and victims with their UVISA application process as a line prosecutor and I have signed off on UVISA application approvals in my supervisory capacity.

Any top prosecutor understands fairness and justice demand that we must endeavor to treat all persons coming into contact with the criminal justice system as a perpetrator or victim fairly without treating any particular group differently. When elected, I will endeavor to continue – as I already do – treating all persons fairly and justly.

What do you see as the biggest law enforcement issues in Baltimore County?

My answer is borne from actual public safety prosecution experience which must remain foremost in consideration.

There is a saying in real estate that the value of a house is how much one is willing to pay for it. Data can only go so far. For example, it will not show up in data if a citizen's car is stolen, but their perception is



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that the police can't do anything about it, so they do not report it. This is what happened to my neighbor a few weeks back - car stolen in the middle of the night in front of their home. No police report; thereby, no data entry. Baltimore County residents are alarmed that crime is trending up, juvenile crime is out of control. I stand with and believe my fellow community members.

Right now, the biggest crime trends confronting Baltimore County law enforcement are as follows.

1) Quality of life crimes (noise, thefts, nuisance behaviors). Police are the front lines. As top prosecutor, I will work directly alongside police and our community to comprehensively work to drive down quality of life crimes. It is in this area in which problem solving dockets and courts tend to be very impactful. Many of these problem solving courts, dockets, and programs already exist; however, our community is voicing that they are not working to stem these crimes. As a result, my focus will be on doing an overall assessment of the current problem solving mechanisms to identify those areas which need improvement.

2) Juvenile crime. I receive nearly daily texts about juvenile crime throughout the area from upset residents. Regardless of what the numbers themselves are – our community is sick and tired of seeing mobs of juveniles overtake shopping areas bringing violence and disruption to businesses and our community. This is a complex issue. Getting rid of our tool of charging handgun violations as adults will actually increase the chances that many more guns are going to start showing up with these juveniles. That is simply the way the criminal industry operates. Period. When elected, my focus will be victims and our community first. Don't do the crime if you can't do the time.

3) Domestically-related crimes. These cases are incredibly difficult. Being strategic is key. I will use my proven strategy in targeting repeat domestic offenders post-trial to improve outcomes and keep families safe.

4) Vulnerable adult, elder abuse. This is a growing concern and has been over the past number of years everywhere.

Scammers target our seniors. Human traffickers target our seniors, especially in assisted living facilities. Seniors losing their life savings to fraudsters should disgust us all.

This is unacceptable.

For a number of years, I oversaw these cases and participated in community outreach to continue to identify this growing criminal area. I will take this experience with me to ensure that we develop a robust operation to keep our seniors safe.



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As your next top prosecutor in Baltimore County, I will always prioritize victims and our community first.