

TALKING POINTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

District Attorney Diana Becton is the Most Qualified Candidate

District Attorney Diana Becton currently leads the Contra Costa office of approximately 200 lawyers, investigators, and staff. She sets policy and priorities for the office, works with our police chiefs to solve law enforcement challenges, and develops programs to break the cycle of crime in our community. She is responsible for a budget of over \$40 million.

Elected by her peers to serve as Presiding Judge of Contra Costa County, Diana Becton oversaw all of our county courts, managing a budget of over \$50 million through a challenging fiscal crisis. **She knows how to lead and manage multi-million dollar justice agencies in Contra Costa County because she has done it successfully before.**

As a judge for 22 years, **Diana Becton is no stranger to the criminal justice system.** In a criminal case, the judge is the one who decides whether the prosecutor or the defense attorney is making the correct legal argument - a judge has to have a comprehensive understanding of the law she is charged with upholding. So **Diana has a unique perspective and experience in criminal justice matched by no other candidate.**

Diana's legal experience is both deeper and broader than her opponents. As a judge, she handled criminal, civil and environmental prosecutions and lawsuits, and oversaw cases in our juvenile justice system. As a practicing lawyer before becoming a judge, Diana has represented clients and tried cases. **She has the qualifications and experience not just to prosecute cases, but to lead the entire office of prosecutors.**

District Attorney Becton is the **first woman and the first African-American** ever to serve as Contra Costa District Attorney - 167 years after the office first opened. Last September, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to bring **leadership and change** to the District Attorney's office after the previous DA resigned in disgrace.

Diana (pronounced "Di-nuh") attended **Oakland Public Schools** and graduated from **Golden Gate University School of Law**. Most recently, she earned a **Masters of Theological Studies** at Pacific School of Religion (2015). She is the mother of two adult sons.

Diana Becton Stands For:

- **Safe communities**
- **Fair treatment of victims and accused, bringing justice for all**
- **Alternatives to incarceration for low-level nonviolent offenders**
- **Mental health treatment for those in need**
- **Restoration of public trust and transparency in the district attorney's office**

Top 12 Reasons to vote for Diana:

- Her priority is **keeping all of our communities safe and healthy.**
- She is an **experienced attorney and judge** with significantly more leadership experience than any other candidate
- As a Presiding Judge, she excelled at managing the court and a **budget over \$50 million**
- No other candidate has the **broad legal experience** and **deep management experience**
- For example, as a judge, Diana received special training to manage complex environmental cases giving her **expertise in environmental litigation**
- Diana supports reasonable gun reform, including a **ban on assault weapons**
- Diana is committed to **school safety** and was honored to speak at local March for Life events
- She is excited by new and innovative thinking around **justice reform**, and worried about disparities in sentencing and the administration of justice
- She is already working with **police chiefs and community members** to resolve community challenges
- She's already working to improve diversion programs for low-level crimes and for people with mental health issues who need treatment, not punishment
- She is committed to **transparency** and to keeping the public informed - that's why she hired a Public Information Officer
- Diana is working hard to rebuild **trust** in the District Attorney's office

RESPONDING TO ATTACKS & CONCERNS

So why is Diana's opposition calling her a plagiarist?

Diana has always wanted to bring the best and most innovative thinking to reform our justice system and make it stronger. She made a mistake by not providing the sources of some of this thinking during the application process for the DA position. She has publicly admitted to her mistake and apologized for it to the community and to the person whose thinking she admires, and I respect that. I know our elected officials will make mistakes - **If you want someone as District Attorney who will take responsibility for their mistakes, Diana has proven she can and will do that.**

Why are George Soros and other "outside interests" getting involved in Contra Costa County?

Our campaign is a community campaign. In fact, **Diana has far more local community support than either of her opponents.** See a partial list, below.

Diana Becton for District Attorney 2018

It is important to note that our campaign to elect Diana Becton District Attorney is NOT coordinating with these outside funders. We did not ask them to jump in and we are not talking or coordinating with them -- their participation is allowed thanks to campaign finance decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Finally, it may be helpful to understand that there is a **national movement** to re-think our approach to criminal justice. We cannot resolve the challenges we face in our criminal justice system doing the same things we have always done. **It is time for a new approach.** Diana Becton is bringing that approach - and she has been recognized at a national level as someone who can lead the change we need in our criminal justice system. Isn't it nice to think **we can elect a nationally recognized changemaker?**

Diana's priority is to make Contra Costa County safer -- but prosecuting criminal offenders is only one piece of the picture. We must also work to break the cycle of crime by diverting low-level nonviolent offenders to programs and services to address underlying issues like homelessness, mental illness, and drug addiction. And we must have robust re-entry programs that support people who have paid their debt to society as they attempt to start over and become productive members of their community.

What is a diversion program?

Diversion programs are focused on getting people back on track. An example is - someone who is arrested for a non-violent misdemeanor may be eligible to get their charges dropped by agreeing to enroll in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and agree to perform community service. The focus is on what can we do to address the reason why this person is committing a crime so they don't commit additional crimes in the future.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DIANA BECTON -- LOCAL ENDORSERS

- Allwyn Brown, Chief of Police, Richmond
- Tom Butt - Mayor of City of Richmond
- Lamar Thorpe - Antioch City Mayor Pro Tem
- Tony Tiscareno - Councilmember, Antioch City Council
- Lori Ogorchock - Councilmember, Antioch City Council
- Monica Wilson - Councilmember, Antioch City Council
- Pete Longmire - Mayor of Pittsburg
- Genoveva Garcia Calloway - Mayor of San Pablo
- Paul V. Morris - Vice Mayor of San Pablo
- Lori Wilson - Suisun City Mayor Pro Tem
- Gabriel Quinto - Mayor of the City of El Cerrito
- Paul Fadelli - Councilmember, El Cerrito City Council
- John Gioia - Contra Costa County, Board of Supervisors, District 1
- Federal Glover - Contra Costa County, Board of Supervisors, District 5
- Kevin Wilk - Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek
- Myrna de Vera - Councilmember, Hercules City Council
- Roland Esquivias - Councilmember, Hercules City Council
- Cecilia Valdez - Councilmember, San Pablo City Council
- Lesa McIntosh - President of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Board of Directors
- Frank Mellon - East Bay Municipal Utility District, Board Member
- Mister Phillips - West Contra Costa Board of Education, Board Member
- John E. Marquez - Contra Costa Community College District, Ward 1, Board Member
- Madeline Kronenberg - West County Unified School District, Board Member
- Contra Costa AFL - CIO Labor Council
- Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council
- Black Elected Officials of the East Bay
- Bricklayers, Tilesetters and Allied Craftworkers Local 3 Union
- BWOPA Richmond/Contra Costa Chapter
- Democracy for America
- Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
- East Bay Women's Political Alliance
- East Contra Costa Democratic Club
- Indivisible CA-11
- Indivisible East Bay
- Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Lift Up Contra Costa Action
- Northern California Regional Carpenters Local 152
- Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 159
- Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 342
- Real Justice
- San Ramon Valley Democratic Club
- SEIU Local 1021
- SEIU Local 2015

Diana Becton for District Attorney 2018

- Sierra Club
- Smart Justice California
- TriValley Democratic Club
- UPTE-CWA Local 9119
- West County Democratic Club
- Loni Hancock - California State Senator, District (2008-2016)
- Janeith Glenn-Davis - Former Bart Deputy Chief
- Irma Anderson - Mayor of Richmond CA (2001-2006)
- Tom Powers - Former Member of Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
- Jim McMillan - Richmond City Councilmember (1983-1995)
- Greg Feere - CEO of the Contra Costa Trades Council (1987-2017)
- Lynn Mackey - Sr. Director of Educational Services for the Contra Costa County Office of Education
- Jessica Cisneros, Student Trustee, Contra Costa Community College District
- Shirley R. Wysinger, Former Mayor and Councilmember, City of San Pablo
- Ralph A. Hernandez, former Antioch City Council Member, Chair of "Citizens For Democracy"