



Questions for Candidates for District Attorney from the **Conservative Coalition of Harris County**

This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public voter viewing.

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
Lori DeAngelo	District Attorney

Please give your answer to each of the following questions and please include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise & clear.

1. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for the Harris County District Attorney's office.
Answer: I spent more than 20 years as an assistant district attorney in Harris County. I started under Johnny Holmes and worked for seven different district attorneys before leaving the office in February of 2019. I'm the ONLY candidate in the Republican Primary who has worked as a Harris County prosecutor and the only candidate who has tried capital murder cases. I have more prosecutorial experience than any candidate running on either side. Having spent more than two years working for Kim Ogg, I observed her missteps first-hand and am the only Republican candidate with knowledge of how the DA's office functions.

2. Please explain what you believe are the most significant issues in this race, why you are running for this position and what differentiates you from the other candidate(s).
Answer: The most significant issues in this race are how the DA's office is handling violent criminals and bail reform. There needs to be a balance between public safety and the rights of the accused. I left the office because I was tired of watching Kim Ogg dismantle everything that generations of prosecutors built. I worked there when the office was the gold standard in Texas and I want the office to get back to being the most respected DA's office in the State. While I'm the ONLY Republican candidate that has any experience whatsoever as a Harris County prosecutor, I also have MORE prosecutorial experience than any candidate in the entire race. There is no replacement for real experience.

3. Please identify the biggest challenge the District Attorney's office faces and describe how you plan to address it.

Answer: The biggest challenge the DA's office faces is the lack of experienced prosecutors. Kim Ogg fired 41 experienced prosecutors when she took office and has run many more off during her tenure. This lack of experience has led to a decrease in conviction rates and more dangerous criminals out on the street. I plan to bring some experienced prosecutors back to the office and provide more effective training and support for the prosecutors who remain.

4. Please list the top 2 or 3 programs/projects that will be your focus in the upcoming term. Describe why they are important, and the funding issues associated with each.

Answer: In addition to hiring more experienced prosecutors and providing more effective training for prosecutors, I plan to reinstitute a more functional intake system. Kim Ogg initially claimed that her "professionalized" intake system would be more cost effective, but she eventually acknowledged that it did not save money. Ogg has created numerous ancillary political positions at the DA's office that need to be eliminated. This will free up salaries to allocate to additional prosecutors. I plan to add 22 prosecutors to the felony trial bureau. Currently there are three prosecutors assigned to each felony court. When I started at the DA's office more than 20 years ago, there were three prosecutors assigned to each felony court and the dockets were one-third of the size they are now. Adding a fourth prosecutor to each of the 22 district courts will make the caseload for each prosecutor more manageable and should increase efficiency. In addition to reallocating funds, I would seek additional funding if needed for those 22 positions. Unlike Ogg, I will not go to commissioner's court with a blanket request for 102 additional prosecutors.

5. What is your strategy to combat the increasing threat from drug cartels in Harris County? Do you support an effective program for identifying criminal illegal aliens and processing them with ICE for deportation from Harris County?

Answer: Foreign drug cartels present one of the most dire threats to public safety, not just due to the drug trafficking, but due to the violence often involved. I would seek lengthy prison sentences and then deportation for cartel members. I certainly would support an effective program for identifying criminal illegal aliens and processing them with ICE for deportation from Harris County and work with federal officials to accomplish that result.

6. The current DA Ogg has instituted several initiatives such as the [Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program](#) (MMDP), [high dismissal rate](#), and Harris County's [controversial bail bond settlement](#). What changes will you initiate to these and any other potentially problematic programs instituted by DA Ogg?

Answer: The MMDP is not working. There are too many people who don't show up for the program. When I worked DA intake, there was a large stack of papers waiting for warrants to be written for these individuals who didn't show up. The MMDP is too broad and too many people are eligible for it that shouldn't be, *i.e.*, convicted felons. The high dismissal rate is directly related to the professionalization of intake where there are inexperienced prosecutors overcharging cases that subsequently are pled down or dismissed. As I detail in my answer to question 8, intake needs to be returned to a more functional system where experience prosecutors make the charging decisions. The DA's office needs to file motions for high bond for all violent offenses AND make sure that the motions are heard before the magistrate at Probable Cause Court in order to combat the ridiculously low bonds set by these magistrates. One of the biggest problems I've seen since the bail bond settlement is defendants getting out on personal or nominal bonds and then not showing up for court. This has resulted in an increase in warrants issued, but the sheriff's office does not have the increase in man-power to serve those warrants, resulting in more and more defendants on the streets and not facing the consequences of their actions.

7. Is additional collaboration needed between the county DA office and federal prosecutors? What steps will you take to ensure better communication/collaboration with the Federal agencies?

Answer: I worked with Ryan Patrick for several years and have a good relationship with him. As a prosecutor, I didn't have any trouble with federal prosecutors keeping me informed regarding investigations of defendants in my court. However, if issues arise, Ryan and I will have no trouble working together to address those issues.

8. What are your strategies to improve case load processing and increase conviction rates within the DA office?

Answer: When Kim Ogg took office, she decided that instead of intake functioning as it always had, she wanted "professionalize" intake by hiring prosecutors who only work intake instead of it being an extra job for experienced prosecutors. As a result, these inexperienced professional intake prosecutors often overcharge cases and clog up an already overburdened system. I would like to reinstitute intake as an overtime job for experienced prosecutors. I believe that would result in better, more consistent charges. Returning intake back into a more functional system and bringing experienced prosecutors back to the office would improve case load processing and increase conviction rates. Better training is also needed for the less experienced prosecutors so that they are more prepared to try difficult cases.

9. What additional resources are needed for the DA office from county government?

Answer: An increase in funding would mean an increase in the number of prosecutors to handle the overwhelming caseload, but more than anything, the DA's office needs to get back into the Criminal Justice Center. Right now, the DA's office is being housed in a building on the other side of downtown. Prosecutors ride a bus back and forth to court which is a considerable waste of their valuable time. The strain that the office situation has created can't be overstated. Commissioner's Court needs to take the situation more seriously and focus on providing a fully functional Criminal Justice Center.

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PLEASE SAVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR LOCAL MACHINE IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO EMAIL IT BACK.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to:

alex@cchc-pac.org

* **Please note:** You **must** return your questionnaire from the email address to which it was sent. Questionnaires returned from any other email address will be considered fraudulent and will **not** be recorded and no answers will be published in the voter's guide. CCHC-PAC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.