**Questionnaire for 2016 Mass. candidates for sheriff**

Candidate: Please answer these questions in whatever format is most convenient for you. You can insert your answers in this document electronically and e-mail it back to [*name of group*] at [*email address*] OR you can mail a hard copy to [*mailing address*]. However, please note that on page 3, we ask you to **sign and date** your responses to ensure their authenticity. If you respond to the questionnaire by e-mail, please either 1) scan the signature page and e-mail it to us, or 2) send a hard copy by mail. Finally, **please respond by [*date*]**.

1. What is your corrections philosophy?
2. What are your qualifications for being sheriff of your county?
3. [*For candidates other than current sheriff*] What policies of the former/current sheriff would you change and why?
4. What are your views on building a new county House of Correction (HOC) or jail? Expanding the existing HOC or jail?

1. Your views on transparency: If elected/re-elected, will you issue annual reports that include information on public accreditation findings, Prison Rape Elimination Act audits, suicides and lawsuits against the sheriff’s department (whether filed by prisoners, employees, attorneys or family members)?

6. Impact of legislation or statewide administrative policies:

1. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in fewer people sentenced to incarceration at your county HOC? If so, please give examples.
2. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in fewer people held pre-trial at your county jail? If so, please give examples.
3. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in more people sentenced to incarceration at your county HOC? If so, please give examples.
4. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in more people held pre-trial at your county jail? If so, please give examples.

7. For people who have not been convicted of any offense, do you think it is appropriate

to lock them up for drug or alcohol treatment at a county HOC, instead of being sent to a

community-based healthcare facility? Why or why not?

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8. Your views on the basics of incarceration:

1. How do you think pre-trial and sentenced prisoners should primarily spend their time?
2. What educational opportunities currently exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those opportunities?
3. What employment/job training opportunities exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those opportunities?
4. What mental health/substance use disorder services exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those services?
5. What personal growth programs (parenting, anti-violence, etc.) exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing these opportunities?
6. What are your views on isolating prisoners (sometimes called solitary confinement) as punishment for violating HOC/jail rules?
7. Your views on re-entry and recidivism:
8. If elected/re-elected, how would you ensure that prisoners leaving your county HOC have the best chance for successfully returning to their communities?
9. What is the current rate of recidivism for prisoners leaving your county HOC? What would you do to reduce that rate?
10. Your views on incarcerated women:
11. Should gender-specific medical care and education be provided?
12. Should women be forced to buy their own feminine hygiene products or should the HOC/jail provide them?
13. Should the HOC/jail promote or facilitate meaningful contact with a woman’s children? If so, how?
14. Your views on pregnant/post-partum women prisoners:
15. Are you familiar with the 2014 legislation on pregnant and post-partum prisoners (M.G.L. chapter 127, section 118)?

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1. Is your county HOC/jail in compliance with that law?
2. Do you support House bill, H.3679, “An Act to Ensure Compliance with the Anti-Shackling Law for Pregnant Incarcerated Women”?
3. What are your views on videotaping strip searches of prisoners?
4. If you are now or were previously employed as a corrections or law enforcement officer, has a complaint or lawsuit ever been filed against you for excessive force, a civil rights violation, discrimination, or abuse of your authority? If so, please provide details and the outcome of the complaint/lawsuit.

**Thank you for participating in our candidate’s questionnaire!**

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**AUTHORIZATION**

This signature attests that the above questionnaire answers accurately represent the views of the candidate.

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Candidate’s Signature Date

Candidate’s name: print or type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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