

1. The State Attorney General's office represents the state agency Texas Department of Criminal Justice in lawsuits. A good attorney helps clients "calculate the odds" of various positions. Over the past several years, the state has paid out many millions of dollars in lawsuits related to the need for climate control in Texas prison living areas. While some of the plaintiffs sought relief from temperature extremes because of current health issues, others sought relief on the grounds of basic humane treatment. Still other plaintiffs have been state employees who have to work in inhospitable temperatures and in a dangerous environment made still more dangerous by the violence and despair incited by torturous conditions of inhumane temperatures. Other lawsuits against TDCJ have dealt with healthcare for inmates, including the need for dentures, inadequate care for kidney disease, and other chronic illnesses. In the case of one lawsuit, seeking humane temperature control for the Wallace Pack Unit, published accounts show that costs to fight the case were almost double the amount finally spent to provide climate control for the unit. \*

Yes

No

a. The AG's office plays a role not only in defending TDCJ but in defending the best interests of the state as a whole. Will you commit to doing research to compare costs of lawsuits against TDCJ with costs to provide relief to plaintiffs, and offer fiscal guidance that benefits the state treasury?

b. Will you consider the "human costs" from dehumanizing the persons in the care and employment of TDCJ when advising the agency on lawsuits related to climate control, safety, and health care?

c. Have you read the document "Humane Temperatures Potential Cost Savings Report," available at [https://www.tpcadvocates.org/\\_files/ugd/488024\\_fc bcf58a857f4830bad47bb1cddf6197.pdf](https://www.tpcadvocates.org/_files/ugd/488024_fc bcf58a857f4830bad47bb1cddf6197.pdf)?

d. If you have not yet read "Humane Temperatures Potential Cost Savings

Report, will you commit to reading the report within the next five days?

2. Will you commit to oversight of the AG's office by INDEPENDENT agencies when conflicts of interest or accusations of wrongdoing are asserted against the AG? \*

Yes

No

3. The phenomenon of "implicit bias" can adversely affect many community groups. Across the country individuals and agencies are trying to be more aware of how their personal experiences may adversely taint public interactions. \*

Yes

No

a. Do you agree that implicit bias could make the workings of the State Attorney General's office less just?

b. Will you commit to implement or continue policies and practices to combat bias in decision-making within your office, including in charging decisions, bail recommendations, diversionary program placements, and plea bargains – as well as in internal office practices?

4. Which of the following are practices you would be willing to use to combat bias within the AG's office? \*

- a. Regularly bring in experts to train staff and prosecutors on implicit and explicit bias
- b. Prioritize inclusive hiring and promotion with the goal of creating a staff that mirrors as closely as possible the racial and ethnic makeup of the state?
- c. Regular review of and reports to the public on previous two items noted in this question?

5. Add any clarifying comments on questions above and/or anything else you would like to convey to your constituents regarding your positions on criminal justice reform. \*

Failure to provide minimal air conditioning in Texas prisons is a form of cruel and unusual punishment and should be considered unconstitutional.  
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